

August 13, 2008

Mr. Sange de Silva
Director General
Social, Institutions and Labour Statistics Field
Statistics Canada
150 Tunney's Pasture Driveway
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6

Via Email: sange.desilva@statcan.ca

Dear Mr. de Silva:

Re: Canadians Misled

Your letters to the Vancouver Sun and National Post of July 30, 2008 still do not deal with the fundamental issue that needs to be addressed in your publications dealing with police reported crime statistics.

You have missed our point that Statistics Canada gives a misleading definition of what the actual crime rate is in Canada (e.g., July 17, 2008, The Daily states "Canada's *national crime rate*, based on data reported by police, declined for the third consecutive year in 2007". In fact, police reported crime only represents approximately one-third of actual crime. We cannot continue to make the mistaken correlation that police reported crime is equivalent to the national crime rate. The Canadian people are being misled as to the real rate of crime in this country.

Compare the police-reported statistics to the Criminal Victimization Survey. Only 34 per cent of property and violent crime is ever reported to police. Unfortunately the victimization survey is only conducted every five years resulting in it being overlooked in favour of the yearly police reported crime statistics which do not give the complete picture.

Surely this disparity in results must be of sufficient concern to Statistics Canada to demand completion of the Criminal Victimization Survey annually. **In the meantime, Statistics Canada should *never* refer to the police reported statistics as the 'national crime rate' or 'crime rate'. To avoid confusion, these figures should *always* be referred to as 'police reported crime' or 'reported crime'.**

It is time to stop allowing Canadians to be misled.

Sincerely



Bernard Magnan
Assistant Managing Director and Chief Economist

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cc. The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister
The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry
The Honourable Vic Toews, President, Treasury Board
The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister for Public Safety
All BC MPs