



SOUNDOFF

## Shameful spin-doctoring on age of consent

It is about time the age of consent was raised here in Canada!

It is sheer poppycock-spin-doctoring by Irwin Cotler when he says “youths [14- and 15-year-olds] who engage in consensual sexual activity [with adults] do not want to be treated as sexual assault victims” is somehow justification for *not* protecting children from adults sexual predators.

By definition, the 14- and 15-year-olds we are taking about are children and have not reached the age of majority, let alone developed the life skills needed to han-

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dle adult relationships.

Sadly, Canadian children currently receive two, and sometimes three, years less protection from adult sexual predators in comparison to countries such as Algeria, Antigua, Armenia, all states in Australia, Azerbaijan and all but two American states.

In 2002 the United States passed the Federal Child Protection Act, making it a crime for its citizens travelling to other countries for

the purposes of engaging in sex with children under the age of 18.

At least four times last year, Canadian authorities have had to request the U.S. to lay charges under this act, so we Canadians could at least extradite back to the U.S. these types of predators to face justice for their behaviour.

What kind of backwater banana democracy relies on another nation to protect — arguably its most valuable assets — children?

*Doug Stead is an ashamed and embarrassed Canadian from Coquitlam.*