

sentencing to public protection and should reflect the value of opportunities for:

- offenders to accept and demonstrate responsibility for their criminal behaviour and its consequences;
- victim reparation and victim-offender-community reconciliation;
- offenders to become "habilitated" or rehabilitated; and
- denunciation and incapacitation, where necessary.

The Committee further believes that, except where to do so would place the community at undue risk, the "correction" of the offender should take place in the community and imprisonment should be used with restraint. Finally, the Committee believes that wherever possible victims and the community should have greater involvement in sentencing and corrections.

The Committee also agrees with the President of the Law Reform Commission of Canada that sentencing must be part of an integrated, overall approach to the formulation of criminal justice policy. In the Committee's view, its proposed approach to sentencing is consistent with the purposes and principles proposed in *The Criminal Law in Canadian Society*.

Moreover, the Committee believes that criminal justice work should be grounded in the human dimension of crime (actual hurt or harm caused by offenders to victims, their families and their communities). Currently, decision-makers have little knowledge of the results of their decisions and whether or not they are achieving their desired goal. It has been suggested that the present criminal justice system is irrelevant to the human experience of crime. If this is true, it no doubt contributes to cynicism and a demoralizing lack of purpose for those who work in the field, as well as to public dissatisfaction. While there may be disagreement as to the extent that these notions are true, the Committee considers that its approach to sentencing would begin to remedy these problems.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the following be enacted in legislation as the purpose of sentencing: