

# Harper plans to put brakes on street racing

## Promises to complete work of deceased MP

PETER O'NEIL  
and CHAD SKELTON  
*Vancouver Sun*  
OTTAWA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in announcing in Vancouver Thursday a planned crackdown on street racing, evoked the memory of the late Independent B.C. MP Chuck Cadman, who crusaded for tougher laws against deadly joy riders.

"Chuck was a selfless man who devoted his years in Ottawa to fighting for safe streets," Harper said.

Asked whether Cadman, who died of cancer last year after failing to get a private member's bill passed, would be happy with this legislation, Harper said, "I believe so."

"We've certainly been in regular contact with (Cadman's widow) Dona Cadman during the drafting of this legislation."

But Dona Cadman said she hasn't been consulted by senior federal officials or Justice Minister Vic Toews.

In 2004, pedestrian Irene Nicholson was struck and killed by one of two Corvettes racing in north Edmonton.

Here was the first street-racing death in Edmonton since 1996.

City police have said drag racing is rare in Edmonton thanks to the groundbreaking Street Legal program, which allows would-be racers to blow off steam on a local race track.

In his Vancouver announcement, Harper noted that Cadman's initiative began with the 2002 street-racing deaths of Irene Thorpe and RCMP Const. Jimmy Ng in B.C.

The prime minister said he wouldn't provide details on the proposed bill until it is tabled.

"The upshot is the bill will do exactly what Chuck wanted it to do. The previous government had tabled a bill that did not do that and so that's why we're moving forward with our own legislation."

Harper defended his decision not to invite to the event Cadman's widow, who endorsed New Democrat MP Penny Priddy during the 2006 election campaign.

"In fairness to Dona, she's not part of the government or part of the party. But, obviously, like many other people, she has an interest in this and we consult her. And whether she attends or not is ultimately her business. But, as I say, I met with her last week and certainly made her aware I intended to make this announcement."

Late Thursday, Harper's press secretary, Carolyn Stewart Olsen, said: "Mrs. Cadman was in the PM's office last week. Details were discussed. She knew there would be an announcement and it was an oversight that she was not informed."

"We would have loved to have seen her there today."

*CanWest News Service  
with files from The Journal*

Cadman confirmed she met last week with Harper in his Ottawa office, where she was told the government said it intended to table a law on the issue.

But she said she wasn't consulted on the draft legislation and didn't know about the Vancouver announcement.

"He didn't say he was coming out to Vancouver," she said.

"He just said they would shortly be bringing out something on street racing following on Chuck's bill."

She said she doesn't know yet whether the government bill will be as tough as the one her husband advanced, but "anything is better than nothing," she said.

"As the bill goes through, I don't mind the name being used."

In Edmonton, two people have died and four have been injured in drag racing incidents across the city since 2004.

In February, a 23-year-old Edmonton man died when he lost control of his car during a race on Yellowhead Trail.

Witnesses said the young man was diving at least 130 kilometres an hour when his car jumped the median, sheared a light post, careened through three lanes of oncoming traffic and slammed into a cement wall.

EDMONTON JOURNAL / MONDAY, MAY 29, 2006 A5\*

EDITOR: DONNA CHRISTENSEN; dchristensen@thejournal.canwest.com

## Suspected street race kills couple in car crash

TORONTO / A couple celebrating their wedding anniversary were a few minutes from home when they were killed in an apparent street-racing-related car crash.

Robert Manchester, 46, and his wife Lisa, 43, were driving about 10 p.m. Saturday night when a speeding car slammed into them. They were pronounced dead at the scene, leaving behind an eight-year-old daughter. The Civic driver is in hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, police said. Charges have been laid against one driver and are pending against a second.