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**Rate of Violent Crimes by Offenders on Conditional Release
Continues to Decline**

Ottawa – The National Parole Board's Performance Monitoring Report for 2002-2003 shows that violent crimes committed by offenders on conditional release has dropped by more than 40% during the past eight years.

The report reveals that the majority of federal offenders on conditional release (including day parole, full parole and statutory release) successfully completed their sentences under supervision in the community without committing a new offence or having their parole revoked for violating the conditions of their release.

These results reinforce the importance of gradual release based on effective programs and treatment, risk assessment and supervision in the community as a sound investment in public safety.

In addition to performance results and statistical information on conditional release, the report also provides information on the pardons program. Since 1970, the National Parole Board has granted more than 291,000 pardons. About 97% of these are still in force indicating that the vast majority of pardon recipients remain crime free in the community.

The NPB is releasing this information to provide factual data and perspective on Canada's federal parole and conditional release system.

For highlights of the report see the attached annex.

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The complete 2002-2003 Performance Monitoring Report can be found on the National Parole Board's web site at: www.npb-cnrc.gc.ca

For further information: *John Vandoremalen*
Communications
National Parole Board, Ottawa
(613) 954-6547

or

Nadine Archambault-Chapleau
Communications
National Parole Board, Ottawa
(613) 954-5331