

Bloc backs Tories on bill to kill fast parole -

258 words

7 February 2011

[Winnipeg Free Press](#)

WFP

B8

English

All material copyright Winnipeg Free Press, a division of FP Canadian Newspapers Limited Partnership. All rights reserved.

OTTAWA -- Long-delayed legislation to abolish a law that permits financial fraudsters and other non-violent criminals to secure day parole after serving only one-sixth of their sentence will be put to a vote Monday after the Conservative government secured the elusive support of the Bloc Québécois.

A government source said Sunday the Conservative government will bring forward today a vote in the House of Commons on Bill C-39, which proposes to end accelerated parole.

The Bloc has opposed the legislation in favour of a similar proposal previously put forward by one of its MPs in a private member's bill.

But the Bloc has now decided to support the Tories' bill after holding a series of backroom talks with the Conservatives. Those meetings may have been inspired by the recent release of convicted fraudster Vincent Lacroix after he served only 15 months in jail, the mandatory one-sixth of his sentence. The former chief executive of the Norbourg investment company pleaded guilty to 200 charges relating to the diversion and disappearance of more than \$100 million at the company.

"This bill will apply to future cases," a government source said. Those could include disgraced Montreal financier **Earl Jones**, sentenced nearly a year ago to 11 years in prison for a massive **Ponzi** scheme that defrauded 158 investors of \$50 million. Under current law governing non-violent crime, Jones could be eligible to get out of jail after serving just 22 months of his sentence.

-- Postmedia News

Document WFP0000020110207e72700016

© 2011 Factiva, Inc. All rights reserved.