

The following is the Jerome Myre victim impact statement given 24 September 2013 at the parole board hearing in Joyceville, Ontario for Father Bernard Cloutier. Two victims gave statements. Cloutier was denied early release - he will remain in jail until 14 October 2014.

(9)

Jerome MYRE

September 10/2013

Members of the parole board  
my name is Jerome Myre and I  
am a victim of child abuse at  
the hands of Bernard Cloutier, For  
the short time that Bernard has  
been institutionalized I have been  
kept current with his daily activities  
and programs that he's been  
attending and I must admit I  
am surprised and confused at one  
program in particular that he  
attended and that was the sex  
offenders program from November  
08/2011 to November 17/2011. To  
my knowledge all participation  
in these programs is voluntary, so  
the question I have been asking  
myself is why would someone who  
denies sexually abusing little boys  
take such a program unfortunately  
Bernard is the only one who knows  
the answer to that question. I  
would however like to point out  
that when interviewed by my  
lawyer here in the institution  
Bernard did admit to serving  
us alcohol so perhaps he should  
have considered taking a smart  
serve instead.

②

Serome Myre

As a victim of child abuse I have had to deal with many negative emotions such as anxiety, depression and anger as a result I currently take medication and see a counsellor on a regular basis in order to try and cope. It is extremely hard to heal when all you seem to see and hear on the news these days is ongoing incidents of child sexual abuse and pornography. If we reduce sentences and give early releases we're showing offenders like Bernard Chouinard that what they are doing is being tolerated and that is simply unacceptable. I know we're not here to change any laws or debate them but we are here to consider the early release of a man who impacted my life in a very negative way.

I have spent 43 years in Bernard's prison with no hope of ever being released so for him to serve his full 5 year sentence is a small price to pay for the lives he has ruined.

③

Sérome MYRE

My memories of the abuse are clear, explicit and reoccurring but I hope that they will serve as a reminder that we need to protect our children and leave offenders like Bernard Cloutier serve full term sentences and show people that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated!

The children are the future so let's not leave abuse alter their life course and leave any questions or doubts as to who or what they will become.