



March 3, 2023

Hon. David Lametti, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General  
Via email: [mcu@justice.gc.ca](mailto:mcu@justice.gc.ca)

Hon. Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
Via email: [ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca](mailto:ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca)

Dear Ministers Lametti and Mendicino,

On behalf of our collective municipal associations, we are writing to urge the Government of Canada to take immediate action to strengthen Canada's bail system.

As you aware, the federal government passed Bill C-75 in 2019 requiring police forces and courts to release detained people at the 'earliest reasonable opportunity' and under the 'least onerous conditions' based on the circumstances of individual cases. Bill C-75 has in effect codified a 'principle of restraint' while favouring release over detention for both violent and non-violent repeat offenders. Consequently, violent and non-violent crime rates have increased across the country following the passage of Bill C-75 as repeat offenders gain bail more quickly and commit more crimes in local communities while awaiting their court date.

According to Justice Canada, the proportion of individuals charged with a 'failure to comply with a court order' has more than doubled for both adults and youths over the past 15 years. Meanwhile, criminologists estimate that high-risk offenders represent 10-15% of all offenders but account for 50-70% of crime. Bill C-75's approach toward repeat offenders not only ties up justice resources but also influences public perceptions of a 'revolving door of justice,' leading many communities and their residents to lose faith in the criminal justice system overall. Moreover, these perceptions are compounded as frontline police officers are becoming less visible in local communities as they deal with increased administration-type work and/or participate in court hearings related to repeat offenders.

Bail system reform, as a means to curtail repeat offenders, should also be accompanied by strategies to address underlying causes and challenges. Increased federal and provincial investments in healthcare, addictions treatment, and affordable housing will help affected individuals, while reducing the burden on police and the justice system.



In addition, since September 2022, five police officers have tragically been killed in the line of duty across Canada, including an Ontario Provincial Police officer by an individual who had a warrant out for his arrest at the time of the fatal shooting. These cases are incredibly tragic and warrant urgent action by the federal government so that they are not repeated.

Therefore, our associations support the call of Canadian Premiers along with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) and other police associations on the federal government to take immediate action to strengthen Canada’s bail system. We firmly believe that the federal government should review Bill C-75, including the bail process involving both violent and non-violent repeat offenders, in consultation with the municipal sector with the goal of strengthening Canada’s bail system and reducing crime across the country.

Given the risks to public safety and rising crime rates, we thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kam Blight  
AMM President

Jen Ford  
UBCM President

Cathy Heron  
Alberta Municipalities President

Paul McLauchlin  
RMA President

Randy Goulden  
SUMA President

Ray Orb  
SARM President

- cc: President Taneen Rudyk, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
 Hon. Kelvin Goertzen, Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Manitoba)  
 Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General (British Columbia)  
 Hon. Tyler Shandro, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General (Alberta)  
 Hon. Bronwyn Eyre, Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Saskatchewan)