

Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., député
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Greetings:

I am grateful for your recent engagement on criminal justice reform. As Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, I am committed to taking action to ensure that Canadians feel safe in their communities.

To this end, I am writing to share our government's proposed changes to strengthen Canada's bail regime and implement tougher sentencing measures. Today, I introduced Bill C-14, the *Bail and Sentencing Reform Act*, in the House of Commons. The Act contains over 80 targeted changes to the bail and sentencing framework in the *Criminal Code*.

The Bill proposes to make the following amendments to the *Criminal Code*:

Stricter bail laws

- Establish reverse onus provisions, making detention the starting point for certain offences. In these cases, the accused must demonstrate why they should be released on bail.
- Impose more stringent requirements for obtaining bail, particularly in cases of repeat or violent offending.
- Direct police and courts not to release an accused when doing so would be against the public interest or when detention is necessary to protect victims, witnesses, or children.
- Require courts to consider specific factors—such as random or unprovoked violence, outstanding charges, and the presence of weapons—and to set stricter conditions, including weapons bans, when release is granted.

Tougher sentences

- Strengthen sentencing laws for repeat and violent crimes, including auto theft and extortion, ensuring those convicted can serve longer prison terms.
- Direct judges to impose consecutive sentences for repeat violent offences, auto theft, break and enter, extortion, and arson, meaning offenders serve each sentence one after another, not concurrently.

REFERRAL TO _____

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- Introduce new aggravating factors for crimes against first responders, organized retail theft, and theft or mischief that damages critical infrastructure, such as copper theft.
- End house arrest for sexual assault and child sexual offences, reinstate driving prohibitions for offences involving criminal negligence causing bodily harm, death, or manslaughter, and strengthen fine enforcement.

Further information about the Bill can be found at

<https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-justice/news/2025/10/canada-introduces-sweeping-reforms-to-make-bail-laws-stricter-and-toughen-sentencing-laws.html>.

A strong Canada means strong protections for our communities and a *Criminal Code* that responds to emerging threats, protects victims of crime, and keeps our kids safe.

This is the latest in a series of reforms to strengthen community safety and Canada's justice system. In the coming months, the Government of Canada will bring forward further changes to address court delays, strengthen victims' rights, better protect people facing sexual and intimate partner violence, and keep children safe from horrific crimes.

Once again, I appreciate the time you have taken to share your concerns with me on these important matters, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fraser', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency