



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

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Member of Parliament
Davenport

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MP

Davenport friends and neighbours / amis et voisins de Davenport:

One of the top issues you have raised with me is that you are worried about **safety in our community**. We hear more and more about gun violence, auto theft, drugs on our streets. We also are hearing about offenders who are let out on bail and reoffend, about not enough judges being appointed, and delayed trials, convictions and justice. This communications piece is about what we at the federal level are doing to strengthen our criminal code, reduce criminal activity and keep our communities safe.

Bail reform: Earlier this year, **after working with all the provinces including Ontario**, we drastically strengthened bail guidelines. The criminal justice system is a shared responsibility between our provinces and the federal government. While at the federal level we have strengthened the criminal code around bail, ultimately, provincial judges and justices of the peace are responsible for determining if an accused is granted bail. To be clear, the courts where bail hearings take place are funded and operated in Ontario by the Doug Ford government.

Addressing auto theft is a critical issue for many residents in Davenport: Earlier this year our federal government launched the *National Action Plan on Combatting Auto Theft*. This plan brought together all three

levels of government and partners. The result was an allocation of tens of millions of dollars to fund border and port equipment to detect stolen vehicles, to ensure police services at all levels increase their capacity to deal with and deter auto theft, and finally to better coordinate police and law enforcement efforts across both our country and internationally to counter auto theft.

Gun violence: Our government is committed to doing more to prevent gun and gang violence in our constituency of Davenport and across our country. We have taken several steps listed on the other side to get guns off our streets.

Finally, **I keep in touch with local police superintendents (four Police divisions cover our riding)** to hear directly from them on what more our federal government can do to enhance community safety. I take their recommendations directly to our federal minister of public safety and federal minister of justice.

As always, it is a true honour and pleasure to serve you Davenport!

Julie Dzerowicz
Member of Parliament, Davenport

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Meeting with 11th and 14th Division Police Superintendents



With 13th Division and Fairbank Village BIA

GETTING GUNS OFF OUR STREETS

Over the last nine years our federal government has implemented several measures to get guns off of our streets, including the following:

- ▶ Over **\$1B** reinvested in border security (i.e., CBSA) and RCMP to ensure these agencies have the funding they need to stop guns from coming into our country; this funding replaces the cuts made by Conservatives during their time.
- ▶ In 2020, assault-style firearms were banned in Canada to remove these dangerous weapons from our communities.
- ▶ In 2022, Canadians were banned from buying, selling, and

transferring handguns within Canada. Since then, newly acquired handguns cannot be brought into the country.

- ▶ Since 2018, the federal government has invested more than **\$1.4B** to address gun violence and keep guns off our streets.
- ▶ Over **\$1B** to increase Canadian law enforcement capacity to crack down on gun smuggling and to work with police enforcement units across the country to develop gun and gang violence prevention initiatives.
- ▶ Invested over **\$500M** to tackle the root causes of gun violence and eliminate gun crime from our communities.

FIGHTING AUTO THEFT

Auto theft is rising, especially connected to organized crime. Our **National Action Plan** tackles this issue with new laws aimed at auto theft and the tools used to commit these crimes. Key elements include:

- ▶ **New Offences:** We're changing the Criminal Code to create new laws for auto theft involving **violence** or ties to **organized crime**, including using devices specifically designed to steal cars.
- ▶ **Stronger Penalties:** We've increased the **maximum penalty** for auto theft from **18 months to 2 years**, despite opposition from some parties. **Repeat offenders** face mandatory minimum penalties.
- ▶ **Protecting Youth:** Involving a young person in auto theft will be considered an aggravating factor in the offenders' sentencing. This shows our commitment to **protecting vulnerable youth**.
- ▶ **Funding Support:** We're investing **\$28 million** to enhance the CBSA's ability to address stolen vehicles and an additional **\$15 million** to help police recover stolen cars.

This approach involves collaboration with provinces, cities, ports, and insurers to create a unified strategy against auto theft. In the first half of 2024, **auto theft dropped by 19% nationally and, at least, 14% in Ontario. Border agents have seized over 1,900 stolen vehicles so far this year, more than all of 2023.** Our plan is working and ensures that those who commit these crimes face consequences.

STRENGTHENING OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM

The justice system is a shared responsibility between the provincial and federal governments. While provinces manage courts and bail hearings, federally we can change the *Criminal Code*. In response to requests from all 13 provinces and territories, we passed Bill C-48—a comprehensive bail reform law targeting repeat violent offenders and those involved in weapon-related crimes. Key changes include:

- ▶ Requiring **repeat violent offenders** and those who commit certain firearm crimes to prove they should not be held in jail.
- ▶ Strengthening protections against **domestic violence** by requiring courts to consider an offender's **history of violence** and community safety when deciding on bail.

These changes were made in consultation with provinces and territories. Now it's up to our provinces to effectively use these laws and ensure police and prosecutors have the tools they need.

Federal Responsibilities

- Recently, maximum sentences for auto thefts and organized crime was increased from 10 to 14 years.
- Bail reform was introduced through Bill C-48 to further strengthen our criminal code to keep repeat violent offenders behind bars.

Provincial Responsibilities

- **Judges and justices of the peace (who determine if an individual is granted bail) are appointed by Ontario.**
- The courts where these bail hearings occur are funded and operated by Ontario.
- Jails (where offenders are sent if denied bail) are funded and operated by Ontario.

We have appointed more women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, and members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community to the bench than ever before, creating a judiciary that reflects Canada's diversity. **However, provinces also need to ensure they allocate resources effectively so our courts can operate smoothly.**