

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Our federal government has introduced sweeping reforms to make bail laws stricter and sentencing laws tougher.

Credit: Photo from Toronto Police Services' Facebook.

Myths vs. Facts

In our community of Davenport, gun violence, auto theft, and hate-motivated crimes reveal just how deeply crime affects our neighbourhoods.

Our federal government introduced three crime bills that are going to make Canadians safer:

- 1. Bail and Sentencing Reform Act (Bill C-14):** Offenders will not have easy access to bail.
- 2. Combatting Hate Crime (Bill C-9):** We are implementing clear laws that police can follow to tackle hate and intimidation in our communities.
- 3. Protecting Victims Act (Bill C-16):** We are implementing new measures to protect women and children from sexual assault and domestic violence.



With Police Chief Myron Demkiw, Secretary of State for Crime Ruby Sahota, and former Minister of Public Safety and former Chief of Police Bill Blair.

Serious crimes deserve serious consequences

Following extensive consultations with police, mayors, Premiers, and victim advocacy groups across the country, the new **Bail and Sentencing Reform Act** introduces over 80 clauses in the Criminal Code of Canada consisting of strong measures, including:

1. Keeping Repeat Offenders Off Our Streets

Someone who commits violent crimes in our neighbourhood now have to prove they're safe to release – not the other way around. Judges can also give back-to-back jail sentences instead of letting them serve time all at once, which means repeat offenders receive longer sentences.

Let's say someone commits two crimes:

Breaks into a home = 3 years in jail
Steals a car = 2 years in jail

The Old Way:

Under the old system, the sentences are served at the same time.
Total time in jail = 3 years

The New Way:

With Bill C-14, sentences are served one after the other.
Total time in jail = 5 years

2. Smarter Bail Decisions

Judges can now look at someone's full record – how many times they've been arrested and how serious the charges are – when deciding if they should go free. This means if someone was previously convicted of five assault charges, the judge would treat any new charges more seriously than someone with no previous convictions. Police and judges also have more power to keep dangerous people in jail when our community's safety is at risk.

3. Protecting Our Youth

Our Minister of Justice has also said that the federal government is investing in programs to help at-risk youth so they don't get pulled into crime in the first place. Criminal groups and gangs are increasingly pressuring young people to commit serious crimes for them – things like car theft and home break-ins. The Bail and Sentencing Reform Act creates tougher penalties for adults who recruit, pressure, or convince kids to commit crimes.

I am pleased that the Toronto Police Association, the Ontario Police Association, and the Canadian Police Association welcome and support these changes.

Myth: Liberals make it easy for criminals to go free

Fact: This bill will make it harder for violent criminals and repeat offenders to get bail. Offenders will have to prove they're safe to release, instead of prosecutors having to prove they're dangerous.

Myth: Canadians don't have the right to self-defence

Fact: Self-defence is already protected under Canadian law, and this legislation does not change those protections.

Myth: This Act was created without evidence or proper consultation.

Fact: Bill C-14 was developed following extensive consultations with provinces, law enforcement agencies, municipalities, victim advocacy organizations, and community stakeholders.

Learn more, scan code:



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CONNECTING WITH DAVENPORT POLICE

Meeting with TPS 13, 11, 12, and 14 Divisions

Over the last six months, I've made it a priority to stay closely connected with the police services that keep our communities safe. I've met with superintendents and toured the police stations that serve different areas within Davenport—the 11, 12, 13 and 14 divisions.

These visits have given me valuable insight into the public safety challenges our neighborhoods face and the resources our police need to do their jobs effectively. From staffing concerns to emerging crime trends, I'm staying on top of the issues that matter most to our community's safety and security.

I also had a unique opportunity to join the Toronto Police Service 12th Division Marine Unit for a boat tour along the Toronto waterfront. Our officers don't just patrol our streets, they're also protecting our waterways, responding to emergencies on the lake, and ensuring safety in every corner of Toronto.

I know these issues are on the top of minds for Davenport residents, and it is important for me to ensure I'm getting accurate and updated information.



Taking a boat tour with the TPS Marine Unit & discussing public safety issues

Protecting Victims Act (Bill C-16):

ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Our federal government has introduced a major new law to reduce gender-based violence and protect children from harm.

Statistics Canada reports that in 2024, **almost one in six homicide victims were killed by a spouse or intimate partner**, which is more than the previous year. Women are disproportionately affected by intimate partner violence, and Indigenous women face even greater risk. Many victims are at their most vulnerable when trying to leave an abusive relationship.

This is why the **Protecting Victims Act** is so critical. It recognizes **femicide**, the killing of women because of their gender, as first-degree murder. **Those convicted will face the harshest punishment** - life in prison. The law also makes it illegal to control or threaten someone in a relationship, giving police the power to step in early before things get dangerous.

ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

From 2014 to 2021, police services in Canada reported 50,653 incidents of online sexual child exploitation. This is devastating.

People who hurt children or share explicit pictures of them will go to jail. No exceptions. **The law bans the creation and sharing of fake, AI-generated sexual images of children and makes it a crime for gangs to recruit or force kids into criminal activity.**

The Act also gives victims better access to help, information, and support throughout the court process. **If you are in need of support right now, there are 24/7 services available:**

- **Kids Help Phone:** 1-800-668-6868
- **The Assaulted Women's Helpline:** 1-866-863-0511
- **Hope for Wellness Helpline:** 1-855-242-3310

PROTECTING & STRENGTHENING OUR BORDERS

For over a year, our federal government has consistently taken decisive steps to bolster border security, ensuring the safety of Canadians and the integrity of our borders.

Key initiatives:

- **Launch of Canada's Border Plan:** A \$1.3 billion investment aimed at improving the seizure of firearms and drugs at ports of entry.
- **Implementation of the Strong Borders Act:** Amends the Customs Act to give CBSA expanded powers to examine goods and export routes, especially to prevent weapons and drug trafficking.
- **Hiring 1,000 New CBSA Officers:** To combat the movement of illegal firearms, drugs, and stolen goods, and to enforce import regulations.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has achieved significant success in intercepting illegal goods and substances at Canada's borders in 2025. Here are some key results so far:

Stolen Vehicles

- Over 1,506 vehicles intercepted and detained across Canada

Firearms & Prohibited Weapons

- Over 742 firearms and 13,576 prohibited weapons seized

Illegal Drugs Seized

- Fentanyl: 2.6 kilograms
- Heroin: 87 kilograms
- Cocaine: 3,243 kilograms

Child Pornography: 81 seizures

Human Trafficking: 70 human smuggling investigations were opened as of August 2025, reflecting increased enforcement activity.

SOURCE: <https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/>

Our government is committed to protecting Canadians, securing our borders, and ensuring the safety of communities in Davenport, Toronto, and across the country.

COMBATTING HATE CRIMES

Here in Davenport and across Canada, hate crimes have been on the rise, with a particularly alarming increase in antisemitic incidents. In response to this crisis, I worked with several colleagues to establish a national antisemitism forum that brought together all three levels of government and police services.

Through these efforts, it became clear that we need new laws that strengthen our Criminal Code and give the police the resources necessary to take proper action. That is why our federal government has proposed the **Combatting Hate Act** (Bill C-9). Every citizen has the right to feel safe and protected in their community. This bill:

- Makes it **illegal to block people from entering public spaces** like schools, places of worship, and community centers.
- Makes it **illegal to publicly show symbols that have been proven to promote hatred and violence**, including terrorist symbols or Nazi symbols.
- Makes it a **crime to promote hate speech** - whether online or in person - including calling for violence against any group.
- Requires judges to consider hatred as a reason to give harsher sentences.
- **Protects all communities - including all religious groups - equally**, and gives police more support to keep everyone safe.

These provisions, combined with the Canada Community Security Program (which helps schools, faith-based institutions, and community centres improve security) and Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate (which funds local, community-led initiatives) are building safer communities, strengthening trust, and sending a clear message that hate has no home in Canada.

After the forum, our government pledged numerous changes. **See here, scan code:**



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