

March 18, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Bail Reform and Public Safety

The safety of Canadian citizens and communities remains at the forefront of concern for all leaders in Canada, which is why Premiers have shared their concerns on bail reform with your predecessor on multiple occasions, including last July. Premiers were appreciative of the changes made as part of Bill C-48. These amendments to the Criminal Code complemented the significant measures being taken at the provincial and territorial level to keep violent offenders off the street.

Despite these important changes, there remain too many cases where communities are afflicted by the scourge of violence perpetrated by someone who is out on bail. Recently in Manitoba, a young, vibrant woman named Kellie Verwey was tragically killed by a man allegedly driving impaired, who was out on bail with an active arrest warrant out in his name for repeatedly violating bail conditions from previous offences.

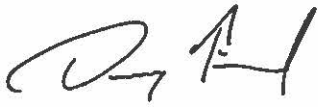
The circumstances that underpin this incident cannot be allowed to happen again. The 2024 Fall Economic Statement included a commitment by the federal government itself to amend the Criminal Code to make bail and sentencing laws stricter to better respond to the severity of a range of violent offences. This has yet to occur. This delay needs to be rectified at the earliest possible opportunity.

Additionally, Premiers continue to call on the federal government to better monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of Canada's bail system. As agreed to by our Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety last October, this should include the collecting, analyzing and reporting on reliable data on bail. To this end, we strongly encourage Justice Canada to allocate resources to provinces and territories to support the identification, collection and analysis of data to improve monitoring and review of C-48 effectiveness.

Premiers also recognize that provinces and territories have an important role to play and are committed to doing their part as well. All of our governments continue to take steps to improve public safety and address the issues of repeat and violent offending. Our approaches include both law enforcement measures as well as efforts on a range of interconnected issues, including poverty, homelessness, addiction, trauma, and mental health.

We look forward to working with the federal government to enhance community safety from coast to coast to coast.

Sincerely,



Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario



François Legault
Premier of Québec



Tim Houston
Premier of Nova Scotia



Susan Holt
Premier of New Brunswick



Wab Kinew
Premier of Manitoba



R.J. Simpson
Premier of the Northwest
Territories



David Eby
Premier of British Columbia



Rob Lantz
Premier of Prince
Edward Island



Ranj Pillai
Premier of Yukon



Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan



Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Dr. Andrew Furey
Premier of Newfoundland
and Labrador



P.J. Akeeagok
Premier of Nunavut

c: The Honourable David J. McGuinty
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of Crown-Indigenous
Relations and Northern Affairs