



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership
to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

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Canada's police leaders welcome the announcement of new measures to combat violent crime and organized crime

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) applauds the federal government's renewed resolve, as announced today by Prime Minister Carney, to enact concrete measures to combat repeat violent offenders and organized crime-related offences. The announced amendments to the *Criminal Code* — including expanded reverse-onus bail provisions, consecutive sentencing, stricter conditional-sentence restrictions, and enhanced penalties for organized theft — represent important tools to support officer and public safety and to reinforce public confidence in the justice system. We also look forward to realizing the commitment to 1,000 new RCMP personnel, including specialized resources to address online fraud, money laundering, and organized crime.

When Bill C-48 was adopted in 2023, the CACP emphasized the need for a properly designed bail system that protects the public from harm and victimization, particularly from repeat violent offenders and those involved in firearms and intimate partner violence offences. We have repeatedly recommended expanding the scope of reverse-onus provisions beyond cases involving weapons to capture serious acts of violence that threaten the safety and trust of our communities.

Today's announcement indicates progress in many of these areas. It responds to the CACP's ongoing call for legislative attention to repeat and violent offenders, stronger sentencing tools, and additional enforcement resources. We are encouraged the government's new measures signal recognition that legislative changes and dedicated resources are essential to combatting crime. However, it is important to note that, before bail can even be considered, a charge must be laid, which in many cases, relies on lawful access to electronic evidence that can only be acquired by updating antiquated lawful access legislation.

The CACP now eagerly awaits the introduction of the proposed legislation and will review it carefully. We stand ready to work collaboratively with the Government of Canada, provincial and territorial partners, and other stakeholders to ensure these measures are practical, enforceable, and effective in addressing the small but significant number of violent and repeat offenders who pose the greatest threat to public and officer safety.