



## Government announces \$390 million to stop crime and violence

### News Release

For Immediate Release

May 8, 2023

Mississauga, Ontario

Canadians deserve to be safe in their communities. That's why the Government of Canada has a comprehensive plan that gets guns off our streets and resources into our neighbourhoods. A central part of this involves adding resources to fight crime and prevent violence from happening in the first place.

The Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Marco Mendicino, today announced that the Government of Canada will be investing \$390 million in programs to stop gun crime and gang violence before it starts. The Government will provide this funding over the next five years to provinces and to support a variety of initiatives, including support for law enforcement and prevention programs.

This funding will succeed the initial *Initiative to Take Action Against Gun and Gang Violence* (ITAAGGV), announced in 2017. ITAAGGV funding has been used by provinces to for an array of important efforts to combat gun and gang violence. Quebec has used it for Operation Centaur, a provincewide initiative that reinforces police with specialized units, disrupts firearms trafficking and prevents crime. In British Columbia, funding supports the Organized Crime Agency of British Columbia, a dedicated police agency to fight gun smuggling, drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime. Today's announcement builds on the success of the initial ITAAGGV investment, with a nearly 10% increase in funding.

ITAAGGV investments are complemented by the \$250 million Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF). First announced in March 2022, the BSCF provides funding directly to municipalities and Indigenous communities to support local initiatives that prevent gun and gang violence and help young people make good choices.

No single program or initiative can tackle the challenge of gun crime on its own. ITAAGGV is one of many elements in the government's plan to keep Canadians safe. This begins with strong borders, where the government has invested nearly half a billion dollars in border security and deepened cooperation with the United States to fight gun smuggling. It also includes strong legislation, headlined by Bill C-21, the government's ban on assault-style firearms and upcoming bail reform. Finally, it involves strong prevention strategies, like the major investments announced today.



## Quick Facts

- Gun and gang-related crime continues to be a serious issue in Canada and the ITAAGGV is making a positive difference in provinces and territories since the program began.
- ITAAGGV recipients reported that their projects were producing positive impacts relative to their objectives and to the communities, populations or stakeholders served by their project.
- ITAAGGV funding helped enhance the RCMP's Integrated Criminal Firearms Initiative (ICFI), expanding the services available to law enforcement to better combat the use of illegal firearms and improve the national collection, analysis and sharing of firearms-related intelligence and information.
- ITAAGGV funding has also supported enhancements to CBSA'S detection technology, equipment and infrastructure to help prevent firearms from coming into the country illegally.

## Related Products

- [Major new federal funding and summit to tackle gun violence and gang activity](#)
- [New investments to help end gun and gang violence in Canada](#)
- [Government of Canada delivers on plan to build safer communities and reduce firearms violence](#)
- [Further strengthening our gun control laws](#)
- [Government takes action to prevent gun violence with \\$250 million Building Safer Communities Fund](#)

## Associated Links

- [Gun and Gang Violence](#)
- [Firearms](#)
- [Homicide in Canada, 2021](#)
- [Youth Gang Prevention Fund](#)

## Contacts

Audrey Champoux  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Minister of Public Safety  
[Audrey.Champoux@ps-sp.gc.ca](mailto:Audrey.Champoux@ps-sp.gc.ca)

Media Relations  
Public Safety Canada  
613-991-0657  
[media@ps-sp.gc.ca](mailto:media@ps-sp.gc.ca)

