



April 28, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Canada's Premiers remain deeply concerned for the safety of Canadians and the first responders who serve them. The federal government must act without delay to ensure that Canadian communities remain safe and protected against violent crimes committed by repeat offenders.

On January 13, Premiers wrote to you seeking federal support and action to strengthen Canada's bail system through necessary changes to the *Criminal Code*. This request reinforced the call for action that was advanced by provincial and territorial Ministers of Justice and Public Safety in October 2022 and discussed again by federal, provincial and territorial ministers in March 2023. Regrettably, the required federal legislation has still yet to be introduced. Premiers urge you to introduce the required federal legislation as soon as possible this session.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all Canadians, Canada's Premiers met with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police on April 21, 2023. Through this meeting, Premiers gained additional insight into the risks and threats posed by violent repeat offenders. Safer communities for all Canadians – and safer working conditions for Canada's law enforcement officers – clearly require a stronger bail system that prioritizes keeping violent repeat offenders off the streets.

Premiers also call on the federal government to formally renew and enhance bilateral funding agreements to support programs initiated under the Gun and Gang Violence Action Fund. While funding for this program was not included in the recent federal budget, some encouraging signals have been received. We look forward to finalizing formal arrangements to continue these initiatives.

All provinces and territories continue to work with key partners in their respective jurisdictions to improve public safety and respond to the complex factors contributing to violent crime. Efforts to build stronger, safer communities include addressing gender-based violence, intimate partner violence, investing in mental health and addictions supports, addressing the overrepresentation of some populations within the criminal justice system, and combatting gang activities through both prevention and intervention.

This continuing work also requires federal action and support notably through a strengthened *Criminal Code* bail framework to protect the public and police officers, and through the federal funding partnership, that includes an enhanced and ongoing Gun and Gang Action Fund, to support our efforts to address criminal activity and its causes.

We look for federal action to assure the safety of Canadians in every region of the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heather Stefanson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heather Stefanson  
Chair, Council of the Federation  
Premier of Manitoba

cc: Premiers