



December 8, 2025

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P.  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
SENT BY EMAIL: [mcu@justice.gc.ca](mailto:mcu@justice.gc.ca)

Minister Michael Kerzner  
Ministry of the Solicitor General  
George Drew Building  
25 Grosvenor St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6  
SENT BY EMAIL: [michael.kerzner@ontario.ca](mailto:michael.kerzner@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Fraser and Minister Kerzner,

On behalf of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for the federal government's recent actions regarding bail reform, specifically the implementation of Bill C-48 and the introduction of the proposed Bill C-14, the *Bail and Sentencing Reform Act*.

FONOM represents the unified voice of 110 cities, towns, and municipalities across Northeastern Ontario. Our mission is to improve the economic and social quality of life for all northerners and to ensure the future of our youth, which is fundamentally tied to the safety and security of our communities. The issues surrounding the previous bail system, as highlighted in our 2022 delegation to the AMO Conference, have had a significant negative impact on the daily operations of our local law enforcement and the overall well-being of our residents.

We have consistently advocated for reforms that address the cycle of repeat offending and prioritize public safety. Our analysis highlighted the need for greater accountability for sureties and stricter conditions for high-risk individuals. We believe that logic clearly dictates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few, especially when it comes to keeping violent and repeat offenders off our streets. The proposed changes in Bill C-14 that expand reverse-onus provisions, require closer scrutiny of bail plans, and introduce stronger sentencing measures directly address the core concerns we have raised.

We particularly support the proposed new system that will require a cash security deposit in the full amount ordered by the court before the accused person is released from custody,

with forfeiture if conditions are not met. This measure will ensure sureties take their responsibilities seriously and provide meaningful consequences when offenders breach their release conditions.

**We also encourage continued dialogue between all orders of government regarding the intersection of public safety, mental health, and severe substance use disorders. Municipalities are increasingly encountering individuals who pose significant risk to themselves or others due to acute, untreated conditions. Given the variability of provincial mental health acts and the limited clarity around the applicability of involuntary treatment for severe substance use disorders, FONOM supports a thoughtful review of the legislative framework. We believe it is important to ensure that frontline responders, health professionals, and families have clear, responsible, and evidence-informed tools to address situations where people are unable to make decisions for themselves and face imminent harm.**

As the legislation progresses, we ask that you also consider:

- **Further Expansion of Reverse Onus:** Examining additional categories of violent or prolific property crimes for the application of reverse-onus provisions.
- **Ensuring Provincial Implementation:** Collaborating with provincial and territorial partners to ensure they are fully resourced—police, courts, and correctional facilities—to effectively implement and enforce the new legislation.
- **Mandatory Enforcement of Sureties:** Ensuring that provincial Crown Attorneys are mandated to pursue the forfeiture of funds pledged by sureties if an accused re-offends.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue. FONOM looks forward to continuing to work with the Province and the Federal Government to fix the problems caused by previous legislation and ensure safer communities for all Northern Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Dave Plourde  
FONOM, President

Cc'd Prime Minister Carney  
Premier Doug Ford