



VIA EMAIL

Friday, October 3, 2025

Corporate Services Department
Legal Services
Office of the Regional Clerk
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
The Honourable Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General
The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General

Please be advised that at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Halton unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Public Safety Requirements to Protect Our Communities

WHEREAS community safety is the foremost responsibility of all levels of government, including federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal authorities;
AND WHEREAS recent violent home invasions in Halton Region and across Canada highlight the ongoing need to evaluate and strengthen bail laws and the administration of justice to better protect communities;

AND WHEREAS repeat violent offenders continue to be granted bail in some instances, placing victims, families, and first responders at risk, and public confidence in the justice system is undermined when such offenders are quickly returned to the community;

AND WHEREAS the federal government passed Bill C-48, which came into force in January 2024, introducing key reforms to the Criminal Code, including:

- A new reverse onus provision targeting repeat violent offending involving weapons,
- An expanded list of firearms offences triggering reverse onus,

- Requirements for courts to consider an accused's violent history and state on the record their consideration of community safety;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has committed to tabling additional legislation during the Fall 2025 session of Parliament to further strengthen community safety, including reforms related to bail and sentencing;

AND WHEREAS the provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of justice, including:

- Appointing justices of the peace and judges,
- Managing court operations and bail monitoring,
- Hiring and managing Crown Attorneys,
- Funding and overseeing provincial police services and detention centres;

AND WHEREAS on November 13, 2024, the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA), and the Toronto Police Association (TPA), representing 35,000 police members in Ontario, called for urgent action to ensure violent and repeat offenders are not released pending trial, and similar calls have been echoed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Canada's Premiers;

AND WHEREAS strengthening bail provisions and the broader justice system requires ongoing collaboration across all levels of government, and doing so would reduce pressures on local police services, the courts, and municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council:

1. Recognizes the steps already taken by the federal government through Bill C-48 and acknowledges the commitment to introduce further legislation in Fall 2025;
2. Calls on the Government of Canada to prioritize and expedite the introduction of its promised bail and sentencing reforms in the upcoming session of Parliament;
3. Calls on the Province of Ontario to invest in and strengthen the administration of justice, including:
 - o Enhancing bail enforcement and monitoring,

- o Increasing resources for Crown prosecutors and court operations, including the previously announced courthouse for Halton
- o Expanding judicial capacity and detention infrastructure;
- 4. Encourages a national, coordinated approach involving all levels of government to ensure community safety is not compromised by gaps in bail or sentencing systems.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- THAT Halton Regional Council calls for the following policy considerations in future reforms:
 - o Expanding reverse onus provisions for repeat violent offenders,
 - o Establishing stronger mandatory bail conditions, including firearm prohibitions, curfews, electronic monitoring, and no-contact orders,
 - o Limiting multiple bail releases for individuals with histories of serious violent offences,
 - o Improving inter-agency information sharing among police, Crown prosecutors, and corrections,
 - o Prioritizing victim and community impact in bail decisions;
- THAT Halton Regional Council calls on the federal and provincial governments to review Criminal Code time limits and rules for stay of proceedings in cases involving serious and violent offences;
- THAT this motion be forwarded to:
 - o The Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Minister of Public Safety, the Secretary of State (Combatting Crime),
 - o The Premier of Ontario, Attorney General of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario,
 - o All federal and provincial parties in the House of Commons and Ontario Legislature;
 - o Halton's Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament,
 - o The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario, and the Ontario Provincial Police Association;
 - o Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) and Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG);

- o Halton's Local Municipalities;
- THAT this motion be shared with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and all municipalities across Ontario and Canada, encouraging them to pass similar motions in a spirit of collaborative, cross-jurisdictional reform.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Graham Milne
Regional Clerk
Graham.Milne@halton.ca

c.

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of Official Opposition
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of Bloc Québécois
Don Davies, Interim Leader of NDP
Elizabeth May, Leader of Green Party
Halton MPs
Halton MPPs
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Police Association of Ontario
Ontario Provincial Police Association
Ontario Association of Police Boards
Canadian Association of Police Governance
City Clerk's Office, City of Burlington
Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director, Legislative Services, Town of Halton Hills
Meaghan Reid, Director, Legislative & Legal Services/Town Clerk, Town of Milton
William Short, Town Clerk, Town of Oakville
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
all municipalities across Ontario and Canada