



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

January 31, 2023

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

The Honourable David Lametti
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Lametti:

RE: Support for requests by Toronto Police Services Board related to Federal Bail Reform

The Tecumseh Police Services Board is reaching out to support the recent requests by the Toronto Police Services Board for changes to federal legislation to enact stiffer penalties and bail reform for those committing violent gun crimes. The recent, disturbing trend in loss of police officers is alarming. The December death of Constable Greg Pierzchala marks the fourth such death in Ontario and the fifth in Canada in recent months.

Accordingly, at its meeting of January 16, 2023, the Tecumseh Police Services Board passed the following resolution (10/23):

That, in response to the recent disturbing trend in the loss of police officers due to violence perpetrated by violent repeat offenders, a letter be sent to the Attorney General of Canada advocating for changes to federal legislation relating to stiffer penalties and bail reform for those committing violent gun crimes, as requested by the Toronto Police Services Board and supported by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB);

And that a copy of the correspondence be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, OAPSB and Tecumseh Town Council.

Specifically, the above resolution supports the following changes to federal legislation:

- Require that Bail Hearings for the most serious firearm offences be heard by a judge of the Ontario Court or Superior Court, clearly conveying Parliament's view of the seriousness of these offences (and their impact on the public) as well as reflecting the views and concerns of the public about these incidents;
- Add an additional route to First Degree Murder under Section 231 of the Criminal Code, by including death resulting from the discharge of a firearm in a congregate setting; this would

act as a strong deterrent, clearly express society's disapprobation of such conduct and help maintain public confidence in the justice system; and

- Increase parole ineligibility to 2/3 of an individual's custodial sentence, for any offence where the court finds that the offender discharged a firearm in a congregate setting (including those who are found to be parties to such offences).

As noted, our parent organization, the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB), has also recently sent correspondence supporting these reforms. We are aware that the OAPSB has called on you to prioritize these proposed legislated changes related to Federal Bail Reform and we support such prioritization.

Yours truly,



Christopher Hales
Chair
Tecumseh Police Services Board

cc Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Irek Kusmierczyk, MP Windsor-Tecumseh
Jim Hart, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board
Patrick Weaver, Chair, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB)
Tecumseh Town Council