



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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Member of Parliament


Milton East—Halton Hills South




| FALL 2025

Bail & Sentencing Reform

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A MESSAGE FROM KRISTINA

As a parent and community member, I understand how concerning it is to hear about break-ins, home invasions, and senseless acts of violence in Ontario. While Halton Region remains one of the safest communities in Canada, public safety is not something we can take for granted.

As your Member of Parliament, I am committed to ensuring that our neighbourhoods stay secure, that families feel safe in their homes, and that young people have the supportive and stable environment they need to grow, thrive, and build their futures.

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Halton Region

In the first six months of 2025, when combined with the same period of 2024, overall crime in Halton is down **11.7%**. Property crimes, like break-ins and auto theft, decreased by a combined **15.9%** when adjusted for population growth.

Auto Theft

-32%

Total Auto Thefts

254 ↓

Theft

-4%

Total Thefts

129 ↓

Break and Enter

Total Break and Enters

-26%

138 ↓

In the first half of 2025 there were **13%** fewer reported cases of fraud and a **21%** reduction in mischief.

Overall Violent Crime is Down

-2%* ↓

*Down 2% when accounting for population growth

Crime Statistics

More Crimes Solved

2024

2025

34.5%  37.8%

Weighted Crime Clearance Rate is the proportion of reported crimes solved by police, where more serious offences are assigned a higher 'weight.'



Crime Severity Index (CSI)

Overall seriousness of crime, tracking both prevalence and severity. Halton has the lowest score of the 'Big 12' services.

2024

2023-2024

31.22

-0.64%



Violent CSI is Down

Such as assaults and robberies.

2024

Change from 2023

26.24

-17.22%



Non-Violent CSI is Up

Such as auto-theft and drug offences.

2024

Change from 2023

34.47

+6.02%

Source: "2024 Crime Severity Index and 2025 6-Month Performance Report – Halton Region"

Bill C-14 Overview

Canada's new government is bringing forward major reforms to strengthen bail and sentencing laws in response to concerns raised by victims, police associations, provinces, and communities. Bill C-14 clarifies and reinforces existing *Criminal Code* provisions so that bail for serious or repeat violent offenders is no longer the default. For a defined set of serious offences, detention becomes the starting point, placing a reverse onus on the accused to show why they should be released.



Bill C-14 also introduces tougher sentencing measures so serious crimes carry real consequences. Penalties for repeat and violent offences including auto theft and break and enters will be strengthened, ensuring offenders can serve longer prison terms. Judges will be required to impose consecutive sentences, rather than

concurrent ones, in a broader range of cases. New aggravating factors will apply to crimes such as those committed against first responders. The legislation ends eligibility for house arrest for sexual assault and child sexual offences, reinstates driving prohibitions, and strengthens the enforcement of fines.

These reforms come at a time when confidence in the justice and correctional systems is being tested. The Ontario Ombudsman's 2024–2025 Annual Report documented a "growing crisis" in correctional facilities:

- 55% increase in complaints to 6,870/year.
- widespread reports of overcrowding.
- deteriorating conditions.
- reports of unsafe practices.
- youth justice complaint more than doubled to 423 cases.
- 30,675 total cases, highest in 3 decades.

Many provincial facilities are operating beyond capacity, creating conditions that make judges more cautious about sending offenders to jail when the system cannot safely absorb inmates. While many of these operational pressures fall within provincial responsibility, they have real consequences for public confidence in the justice system as a whole.

Bill C-14 responds directly to these challenges by ensuring federal laws do their part to protect the public. By tightening bail rules, strengthening sentencing, and clarifying when detention is required, the federal government is taking concrete action to reduce risks to communities and ensure that those who commit serious crimes face meaningful consequences.



The Common Law

The “**principle of restraint**” is a common law principle mandated by the Supreme Court to ensure that release at the earliest opportunity is favoured over detention, **where appropriate**. Only necessary bail conditions are imposed on an accused person.

The “**ladder principle**,” as recognized by the Supreme Court, requires courts to consider the least restrictive form of release first (no financial obligation), unless the Crown can establish why financial terms like surety or deposit are needed.

Our Proposals

- ✓ Directing courts and police on how to apply the principles.
- ✓ Clarifying that restraint **does not mandate release**. An accused should not be released if their detention is justified, including for the protection and safety of the public.
- ✓ Clarifying that the ladder principle does not apply to persons who are subject to a reverse onus.
- ✓ Requiring courts to consider whether allegations involve random or unprovoked violence.

Grounds for Detention

The *Criminal Code* sets out three grounds for bail denial:



to ensure the accused attends court



to protect the public, including victims and witnesses



to maintain confidence in the administration of justice

We propose enhancing the third ground:



by requiring courts to consider the **number** or **seriousness** of any outstanding charges when determining if releasing the accused would undermine confidence in the administration of justice.



Conditions for Release

When an accused is released on bail, the court can **impose conditions** the accused must follow:

- ♦ attend court as directed
- ♦ report to a peace officer
- ♦ remain within a particular jurisdiction
- ♦ report any change of address or employment
- ♦ surrender a passport to prevent travel
- ♦ weapons prohibitions for certain offences

We Will Require

- ✓ Courts to impose weapons prohibitions for those accused of **organized crime** or **extortion**.
- ✓ Courts to consider imposing additional conditions such as non-contact with victims or witnesses for those accused of **organized crime** or **extortion**.
- ✓ Courts to consider imposing certain conditions, such as curfew or non-possession of a break-in device for those accused of **break-ins** or **auto theft**.

Reverse Onus

Serious crimes should **not** have automatic bail.

A "**reverse onus**" is when the accused must prove to the court *why* they should be released on bail, and already exists for some serious offences such as violence with a weapon, terrorism, intimate partner violence, drug trafficking, and more.

We Want to Add Reverse Onus for:

- violent and organized crime-related auto theft
- break and enter of a home
- human trafficking and human smuggling
- assault or sexual assault involving choking, suffocating, or strangulation
- extortion involving violence
- anyone convicted of an offence in the past 10 years where violence was used



Sentences and

BEFORE

Conditional sentences (house arrest) are already not available for offences that carry a mandatory minimum penalty of imprisonment, such as attempted murder.

The *Criminal Code* limits the court's ability to impose a fine as part of a penalty for committing certain criminal offences. Provinces and territories can only suspend **federal** licenses and permits.

In general, participants in a criminal proceeding must appear in person. The mental disorder regime of the *Criminal Code* allows an accused to attend remotely, **if they consent**.

The *Criminal Code* enables courts to issue a **driving prohibition order** to prevent a person from driving, such as after an impaired or dangerous driving charge, but not for cases like criminal negligence or manslaughter.

and Penalties

AFTER

We will also make conditional sentences **unavailable** for serious sexual offences, including those against children.

We will strengthen the ability to enforce federal fines by authorizing provinces and territories to suspend **provincial** licenses or permits, for example until the federal fine is paid.

We will amend the law to allow a Court or Review Board to order the remote appearance of the accused, **without their consent**, in compelling circumstances.

We will restore the power to order a driving prohibition for **manslaughter** and **criminal negligence** causing death or bodily harm, which courts lost in 2018.

Sentencing Objectives

The *Criminal Code* includes six sentencing objectives:



Denouncing the conduct



Deterring the offender



Separating the offender from society



Rehabilitating the offender



Reparation for the harm



promoting **Responsibility**



Our Proposal



We will require courts to prioritize **Denunciation** and **Deterrence** for repeat offences of violent auto theft, break and enter, or organized crime-related offences.



Aggravating Factors

The *Criminal Code* requires the Court to consider “**aggravating factors**,” which are factors that can increase a sentence, such as criminal records, if the offender targeted children, if hate was a motivation, or if it involved domestic violence.

We Will Add

- ◆ if the offence was committed against **first responders**
- ◆ if the offence was committed against **essential infrastructure**, like copper theft
- ◆ **organized retail theft** like robbery or break and enter
- ◆ offenders with a **previous conviction** for a violent offence within the past five years

Tougher Sentences

"Concurrent Sentences" are when sentences are served at the same time (less time in jail).

"Consecutive Sentences" are when sentences are served one after the other (more time in jail).

Most sentences are concurrent, while some offences like terrorism related offences, require consecutive sentences.

We Will Require



that a sentence for **extortion** be served consecutively to a sentence imposed for **arson**.



that a sentence for violent or organized crime-related **auto theft** be served consecutively to a sentence imposed for **break and enter**.



a sentencing judge to consider consecutive sentences for repeat **violent offenders**, in certain cases.





Contempt

"Contempt" is when an individual disobeys or disrespects the authority of a court or judge, such as failing to appear in court.

Currently the maximum penalty for contempt in **section 708** of the *Criminal Code* is \$100 and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days.

We will

increase the penalty for contempt in section 708 of the *Criminal Code* to a maximum of **\$5,000** and/or maximum imprisonment of **2 years** less a day.

Youth Criminal Justice Act

A “**violent offence**” in the YCJA means an offence that includes bodily harm as an *element* of the offence, such as assault causing bodily harm.

A “**custodial sentence**” is when a court orders that a youth be placed in a youth justice facility. Custodial sentences are available for youth who have committed a violent offence. The YCJA does not specify whether time spent unlawfully at large counts toward the sentence.

Our Changes

We will amend the definition of “violent offence” in the YCJA to clarify that if a youth causes **bodily harm** in the commission of *any* crime, it would be considered a violent offence. This expands the availability of custodial sentences.

We will clarify that any time a youth spends **unlawfully at large** does *not* count towards the custodial portion of their sentence.



We propose allowing the police to **publish identifying information** about a youth, without a court order, in urgent situations where the youth is at large and there is an immediate grave danger to members of the public.

Looking Forward

November is Women Abuse Prevention Month. One in four women in Canada report experiencing some form of intimate partner violence. We have seen disturbing increases of intimate partner violence in recent years. The numbers are moving in the wrong direction.

I attended Halton Women's Place's "Hope in Every Step"—a powerful annual walk to raise funds and send a message of solidarity to every woman seeking safety and support.

I was inspired to see advocates, volunteers, survivors, and many young men who came in their sports jerseys with their teammates. These young men pledged to work toward ending violence against women and to stand as allies to protect the women in their lives.

More work needs to be done. Bill C-14 is just the start of reforms, and I will be an advocate for stronger protections, better prevention, and real accountability. Together we can build a Canada where every woman is safe.



Kristina in the Community

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Sept. 4
For Halton Police Day I joined Chief Tanner for a roundtable on community safety and a ride along.



Like Comment Send Share

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Sept. 16
Too many young Canadians are struggling to find homes they can afford. It is time to build!



Like Comment Send Share

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Sept. 22
I joined local environmental organizations for Draw the Line to call for urgent climate action!



Like Comment Send Share

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Sept. 30
We honour survivors of residential schools and children who never came home. Every child matters.



Like Comment Send Share

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Oct. 6
I was pleased to join the local Nigerian community for the 5th edition of Naijafest!



Like Comment Send Share

Kristina Tesser Derksen
Oct. 10
I held important consultations with the Halton Regional Police and the Minister of Public Safety.



Like Comment Send Share



/KristinaKTD



kristinatesserderksen



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Oct. 19 · 🌐

...

Trees for Halton Hills is driven by the goal of a low-carbon green community here at home.



Like

Comment

Send

Share



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Oct. 24 · 🌐

...

I joined Minister of Justice Fraser and my colleagues for the announcement of Bill C-14!



Like

Comment

Send

Share



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Oct. 31 · 🌐

...

I had a great time handing out candy to all the trick-or-treaters in Georgetown and Milton!



Like

Comment

Send

Share



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Nov. 4 · 🌐

...

Such insightful questions from the Grade 5 students at Park Public School.



Like

Comment

Send

Share



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Nov. 11 · 🌐

...

Let's not forget those who fought—and continue to fight—for our freedom.



Like

Comment

Send

Share



Kristina Tesser Derksen

Nov. 15 · 🌐

...

It was a pleasure seeing so many happy faces at the 94th Georgetown Santa Claus Parade!



Like

Comment

Send

Share

You Asked

Dear Kristina,

I am writing to ask why you did not vote for the Conservatives' Jail Not Bail Act? I want my children to grow up with the same level of safety that I did in Brampton. I don't understand how you could not stand for the safety of our communities. People are worried, and with good reason.

*Sincerely,
Alex*

Hi Alex,

Bill C-242 risked undermining Charter rights, judicial independence, and public safety. Rushing *Criminal Code* amendments through Parliament without proper study is irresponsible. Canada needs evidence-based reforms, supported by investments in policing and prevention—not extreme U.S.-style approaches that simply do not fit our system.

It is also important to note that the opposition introduced their bill largely as political theatre, fully aware that the government's own bail reform legislation was imminent. For months, the Minister of Justice and his Parliamentary Secretary have met with provinces, police leaders, defence counsel, and Crown prosecutors to build consensus on effective, evidence-driven reforms. The result of this work is reflected in Bill C-14 and the bail and sentencing reforms proposed.

Thanks!
-Kristina

I Answered

Dear Kristina,

The Supreme Court has ruled that a one year minimum sentence for possession of child pornography is too long. This defies natural law and everything Canada has stood for in the past. It is illogical and disturbing. Why has the judicial branch veered far away from what real justice is?

*Regards,
Hilal*

Hi Hilal,

Your email suggests that you are misunderstanding the Supreme Court's position. The court did not say that mandatory minimum sentences are too long—it said that they violate the Charter because *in some cases*, one year may not be just.

A hypothetical case was used that proves this point. Should an 18 year old teenager receive a one year sentence because she received an explicit photo of her 17 year old boyfriend? A mandatory minimum would tie a judge's hand in that case. Judges should have discretion to levy the sentences that are appropriate in the circumstances, which the reforms in Bill C-14 will afford them.

If you would like further reading on this, I can recommend *R. v. Bertrand Marchand*.

Thanks!
-Kristina



Join MP Kristina Tesser Derksen

BAIL REFORM TOWNHALL

A community meeting where you can learn about
Bill C-14, ask questions, let your voice be heard.

| | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2026 | |
| JANUARY | 14 | WEDNESDAY |
| | 6:00 PM | |

REGISTER FOR LOCATION

REGISTER

mpkristinatd.ca