



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

March 8, 2023

Dear Chief MacSween and Mr. Emmerson:

I would like to thank you for writing to me regarding Canada's bail system.

Canadians deserve to feel safe in their communities and our government's top priority is to maintain safety. The bail system is a fundamental part of Canada's criminal justice system, and our government is working to ensure that our criminal laws are meeting their objective of keeping Canadians safe. I have asked Minister David Lametti to work with provincial and territorial counterparts to identify options for strengthening our laws. I understand a meeting will be convened urgently to work with his provincial and territorial colleagues to find a resolution.

Canada's criminal justice system is a shared responsibility between the provinces and the federal government. Conversations between the federal and provincial governments are ongoing on ways to improve the bail regime, including amongst Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety, most recently in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. I have confidence that concrete ideas will be advanced through this work.

As I have said publicly, we are examining this issue quickly and mindfully. In exploring options, we will need to consider the possible impacts and broad perspectives on this issue and ensure that our criminal justice system keeps communities safe and promotes fair outcomes for everyone.

I am forwarding, for their information, a copy of our exchange of correspondence to the Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety; the Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; and the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs of Canada.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write. Please accept my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Jim MacSween
Chief
York Regional Police

Wayne Emmerson
Chair
York Regional Police Services Board