



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Supporting police professionals through innovative and inclusive police leadership to advance the safety and security of all Canadians.

December 4, 2023

CACP Statement: Canada's police leaders applaud the passing of Bill C-48 on bail reform

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACAP) commends the federal government for proceeding swiftly with legislative amendments to the *Criminal Code* related to Canada's bail system via the passing of Bill C-48. We greatly appreciate the acknowledgement and support received by both federal and provincial political leaders regarding the urgent need to keep violent and repeat offenders who pose the greatest threat to public and officer safety from being released into the community while they await trial.

While the new provisions in Bill C-48 did not address all our concerns, the legislative amendments recognize that there are circumstances where the onus must be reversed to require the accused to show cause as to why they should be released, and this will now apply in cases involving serious violent offences.

The CACP is also pleased to see the reverse-onus provisions expanded to include offences involving domestic, family, and partner violence.

The CACP recognizes that violence in our society is a complex issue that will not be solved by bail reform alone. However, as police leaders, we see the passing of Bill C-48 as a crucial step forward. As the CACP welcomes the news of the passing of Bill C-48, we also honour the passing of multiple Canadians, including officers who died in the line of duty, at the hands of a violent offender on bail and in whose memory we have fought to achieve this bail reform.