



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
Association canadienne des chefs de police

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## Presentation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

**Bill C-235- *Respecting Families of Murdered and Brutalized Persons Act***

Remarks by:

**Superintendent Dale Weidman and Simon Authier LL.B.**  
(Members of the CACP Law Amendments Committee)

Representing:

**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police**

June 3, 2026

Distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today on Bill C-235 *Respecting Families of Murdered and Brutalized Persons Act* on behalf of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

## **Introduction**

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The police community's interests and efforts will always be directed towards preventing public harm but, if harm should occur, we are committed to do everything we can to ensure justice is served and to support victims and their families.

The CACP believes in the importance of always being victim centred and trauma informed. Consequently, we support efforts to reduce the impact multiple parole board hearings have on families whose loved ones have been the victims of homicide.

## **Support for Bill C-235**

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Bill C-235 proposes to amend the *Criminal Code* to provide judges with the discretion to impose a period of parole ineligibility between 25 years and up to 40 years for offenders convicted of abducting, sexually assaulting, and murdering someone in a single incident.

Those crimes are particularly heinous, and they have serious impact not only for the victims' families but the whole of their communities. Denunciation and deterrence should be a primary consideration when addressing those crimes.

The CACP supports the intent of Bill C-235 to ease some of the trauma that families of victims are facing during parole board hearings. At each parole board hearing that families attend, they are revictimized by reliving the brutal details of how their loved ones were killed.

While the law does not require families of victims to attend a parole board hearing, it is easily understandable why they feel compelled to attend. Allowing judges to impose up to 40 years without parole eligibility would reduce the number of parole hearings a family might feel compelled to attend to make a victim impact statement.

However, the CACP is conscious that this Bill must strike a balance between the rights of the victim's families and the rights of the offenders.

### **Proposed Amendments**

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Section 12 of the Charter guarantees the right not to be subjected to any cruel punishment and protect human dignity.

In *R. v. Bissonnette*, the Supreme Court of Canada warned against imposing a sentence on the presumption that an offender is beyond redemption and lacks the moral autonomy needed for rehabilitation.

The risk is that a sentence of life imprisonment with 40 years of parole ineligibility could be perceived as being intrinsically incompatible with human dignity and, therefore, contrary to section 12 of the Charter.

To strengthen this proposed legislative change, the CACP is calling for amendments to Bill C-235. Firstly, the provisions should provide for clarifications on the offenders' right to appeal the ineligibility period. Secondly, the provisions should provide guidance on the considerations for imposing a period of ineligibility that exceeds 25 years. The guidance could be in the form of a non-exhaustive list of factors for judges to consider when determining an appropriate period of parole ineligibility.

We invite the committee to consider amending the Bill to strengthen it and ensure that it is in the best position to survive any challenges.

### **Conclusion**

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The CACP supports the provisions of Bill C-235 and believe that the changes to the parole ineligibility would be beneficial to support the families of the victims of one of the most heinous crimes that can be committed in Canada. We believe the proposed legislative amendments will provide a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach to parole board hearings. Clear and concise clarifications could be introduced to strengthen the provisions and secure our commitment to supporting victims' families.