



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

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Presentation to the Standing Senate Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs

**Bill C-69** - Budget Implementation Act, 2024, No. 1

Remarks by:

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Representing:

**Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police**

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Distinguished members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today on Part 4 of Bill C-69 on behalf of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Today, we would like to focus on sub-division C of Division 34, as well as divisions 35, 36, and 44.

## **Introduction**

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Vehicle theft has been on the rise in Canada and is a key priority for police leaders. Organized crime groups are exploiting security gaps to export stolen vehicles and are using the funds to finance their various criminal enterprises.

## **Anti-theft Technology**

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The CACP strongly supports **Division 35** which proposes to make it an offence to possess or distribute an electronic device suitable for committing theft of a motor vehicle.

We also support **Division 36** which proposes to prohibit the manufacture, import, distribution, lease, offer for sale, sale or possession of technologies to intercept, make use of, or divulge any radiocommunication.

While removing tools from criminals is important, Bill C-69 is not explicit with provisions that support the access and use of technology by the police to disable, track, and recover stolen vehicles. We invite the committee to consider the addition of such a provision in this Bill.

## **Increased Violence**

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When it comes to auto theft, the police and the public are very concerned about the increased levels of violence associated with these offences. Reckless offenders, many of whom have previous convictions, or are out on bail for similar crimes, are committing violent carjackings and home invasions to gain access to certain sought after vehicles.

The CACP has been calling for stronger minimum sentences for repeat offenders, and the creation of new offences related to acts of violence perpetrated while committing other criminal offences.

In December 2023, the CACP commended the federal government for passing Bill C-48 on bail reform. This was an acknowledgement of 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.

We are pleased to see that **Division 35** proposes more serious penalties in subsections 333.1(3) and (4) of the *Criminal Code* for motor vehicle thefts when violence is used, threatened, or attempted or when these acts are committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal organization.

### **Youth**

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The CACP is also pleased to see that this Bill not only acknowledges the critical role of organized crime in the auto theft market, but also how these organizations prey on persons under the age of 18 years to commit offences.

These vulnerable young people are often hired as spotters, thieves, or runners. We commend the federal government for proposing the addition of statutory aggravating factors regarding the exploitation of youth by organized crime and hope that it will assist in disrupting the operation of organized crime enterprises.

### **Proceeds of Crime**

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The lucrative illicit transnational market of stolen Canadian vehicles is being controlled by organized criminal networks – the profits of which often finance other criminal activities, ranging from drug trafficking, arms dealing, human smuggling, and international terrorism.

This is why the CACP supports **subdivision C of Division 34** which proposes to provide for an order requiring a financial service to keep an account open or active to assist in the investigation of a criminal offence and for a production order to require the production of documents or data on pre-determined dates.

These provisions are important because they will provide law enforcement with additional tools to gather intelligence and evidence during investigations related to money laundering and terrorism offences.

### **Supervised Consumption Sites**

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Regarding **Division 44** related to supervised consumption sites, the CACP continues to advocate for a multifaceted health-centred response that includes prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery and reintegration, as well as efforts to reduce the toxic illicit drug supply.

The CACP supports a spectrum of principles, policies and practices that do not exist in isolation of one another. Supervised consumption sites are just one of the critical elements of a health-centred approach, along with safe supply, and diversion programs.

**Division 44** proposes to make regulations respecting authorizations for supervised consumption and drug checking services in order to remove it from the application of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

The CACP wants to ensure that supervised consumption sites remain an option for communities. It is essential that legislation support efforts to divert those with substance use disorders to health and social services.

### **Conclusion**

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Overall, the CACP supports the provisions included in Part 4 of Bill C-69 which address key issues related to auto theft, organized crime, and the opioid crisis. We believe the proposed legislative amendments will enhance safety and security of Canadians and police officers but that additional and explicit provisions are required to support police operations.