

**DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**
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July 31, 2025

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
248 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Fraser,

Re: Bail Reform – Addressing Violent and Repeat Non-Violent Offenders

On behalf of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (Downtown Van), I am writing to express our support for planned federal legislation to strengthen bail conditions and sentencing for serious criminal offences, including those involving organized crime, human trafficking, home invasions, and car theft. We understand that Destination Vancouver and the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade are also submitting letters on this matter, reflecting a shared call for meaningful reform.

As an organization representing over 8,000 businesses employing more than 130,000 workers in the downtown core, we commend the government's commitment to addressing violent and high-risk crimes that pose significant threats to public safety. These measures are vital steps towards enhancing safety in downtowns across Canada and restoring confidence in our justice system.

While we recognize and appreciate the positive impact this legislation may have on reducing violent crime, **we urge the federal government to also consider the ongoing challenges posed by repeat non-violent offenders in urban centres.** Chronic offenders — often involved in property crime, theft, and persistent street disorder present daily disruptions for businesses. These offences directly affect public perception, safety, and the economic viability of our members, particularly small businesses that lack the resources to operate effectively under such conditions. Although these actions are non-violent, their cumulative impact on employees, business owners, and the broader community is significant and enduring.

As you move forward with this important legislation, we respectfully encourage the inclusion of complementary reforms to address the accountability gap for repeat non-violent offenders. A more balanced and comprehensive approach would better support the safety, vibrancy, and resilience of our downtown communities.

Thank you for your leadership and continued efforts to ensure that communities like downtown Vancouver remain safe, welcoming, and prosperous for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Talbot".

Jane Talbot
President & CEO
Downtown Van