

From: [FCM Communiqué](#)
To: [Joseph Fernandez](#)
Subject: Bail and Sentencing Reform Act: FCM response and technical briefing sign-up
Date: October 23, 2025 1:41:32 PM

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October 23, 2025



Dear members,

Today, the federal government announced details of Bill C-14, the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act —new legislation intended to strengthen Canada’s Criminal Code and address the challenges posed to public safety by violent and repeat offenders.

Please note: Justice Canada will host a technical briefing for municipalities on the proposed changes tomorrow, Friday, October 24. All municipalities are invited to attend. Sign-up information is available in the text box below.

This new legislation contains over 80 changes to the Criminal Code, including the tightening of bail conditions, enabling consecutive sentencing for multiple crimes, imposing harsher penalties for organized auto and retail theft, and restricting bail conditions for some sexual offenses.

FCM has consistently advocated for urgent reform to Canada’s sentencing and bail system to tackle violent and repeat offending. This recent push for bail reform represents legislative action from the federal government that responds to our sustained advocacy.

FCM is urging the government to go further by addressing the root causes that continue to strain local services and undermine public safety. That includes the urgent need for expanded judicial capacity to address court backlogs and enhance bail compliance and enforcement.

Additionally, FCM continues to call for strengthening RCMP contract policing, community-based crisis response capability, and ensuring financially sustainable policing decisions that respect local capacity.

FCM will continue to monitor developments around this important legislation and update you, our members.

PLEASE READ OUR REACTION IN FULL

TECHNICAL BRIEFING

Date: Friday, October 24, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Format: Virtual (Zoom)

The session will include a short presentation from government officials, followed by a Q&A period. As the focus will be on technical and implementation details, it will be most relevant for municipal staff rather than elected officials.

The session will be bilingual, with simultaneous interpretation provided.

If you are interested in attending this briefing, please confirm your participation by emailing sheena.pahwa@justice.gc.ca at your earliest convenience. Outlook invitations and Zoom connection details will be distributed by Justice Canada by the end of the day today, October 23.

- Your FCM Team



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