



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 697536

December 24, 2025

His Worship Simon Yu
and Councillors
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George BC V2L 3V9
Email: simon.yu@princegeorge.ca

Dear Mayor Yu and Councillors:

Thank you to you and your delegation for meeting with me during the 2025 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention in Victoria. I am pleased that our governments had the chance to connect in person and discuss your district's priorities. I apologize for the delay in my response.

As Attorney General, I want to acknowledge our discussion and follow-up on the concerns you raised regarding repeat and violent offending in our communities. These are serious issues that require coordinated action across all levels of government.

As you know, in January 2024, amendments to the *Criminal Code* came into effect following Royal Assent of Bill C-48. These amendments make it more difficult for individuals to be released on bail if they are accused of specific firearms offences, repeated serious violent offending involving weapons, or repeat intimate partner violence. While Bill C-48 introduced positive changes to Canada's bail regime, we recognized that more needed to be done. That is why I continued to push the federal government to make further changes to ensure public safety, restore public trust in the justice system, and hold those that repeatedly commit crime accountable.

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On October 23, 2025, the federal government announced new measures to amend the *Criminal Code* and other federal statutes as part of Bill C-14, the *Bail and Sentencing Act*. These proposed changes reflect many of the priorities British Columbia has championed, including reverse-onus bail in high-risk cases, expanded sentencing tools for serious repeat offences, and stronger protections for victims of intimate-partner and gender-based violence. I am pleased to see that our input, particularly around making public safety a primary consideration when determining bail, is reflected in the bill that was introduced.

At the provincial level, our government continues to take action to support safer communities in response to repeat violent offending. A key initiative is the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII), which brings together police, dedicated prosecutors, and probation officers to provide early interventions in cases involving repeat violent offending.

Where appropriate, ReVOII also connects individuals with the services they need to help break the cycle of offending, and those who are in custody are supported through enhanced release planning to support a successful transition back into the community. It should also be noted that BC Corrections provides all individuals in custody with the means to return to their home community upon release, and provides release planning where possible given the length of their sentence or remand. The Province also launched a new Community Safety and Targeted Enforcement Program (C-STEP) in May 2025 to specifically target crimes contributing to street disorder, including shoplifting, theft, robbery, and other property-related offences.

We are also actively working through the recommendations outlined in Dr. Kim Stanton's independent report on gender-based violence, which emphasized the need for improved inter-agency information sharing and consistent risk assessment. The federal government has indicated that further reforms are forthcoming, and we will continue to advocate for strong measures in this area.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me. I value these opportunities to exchange ideas and work together to improve safety and well-being in communities across British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Niki Sharma', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Niki Sharma, KC
Attorney General and Deputy Premier

pc: Barbara Carmichael, KC, Deputy Attorney General