



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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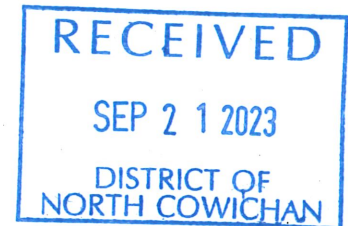
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September 19, 2023

Mayor Douglas and Council
Municipality of North Cowichan
7030 Trans Canada Highway
Duncan BC V9L 6A1



Dear Mayor Douglas and Council,

I am pleased to be writing you with a new development on federal bail reform legislation, about which many of you have recently contacted me.

In response to a growing number of calls to strengthen Canada's bail system from provincial premiers, municipal representatives, and police associations, the federal government introduced Bill C-48, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (bail reform)* earlier this year.

I am pleased to inform you that on Monday, September 18th, Bill C-48 was passed by unanimous consent through all stages of the House of Commons. It has now been sent to the Senate.

My NDP colleagues and I are pleased that the government adopted our proposal to create reverse onus for bail for those charged with possession of handguns, as well as including community-based bail supervision as an option for bail.

Bill C-48 includes an expansion of the list of firearms offenses triggering a reverse onus, and a broader application of the reverse onus provision for repeat offenders of intimate partner violence. The bill also aims to require courts to consider an accused person's history of violence convictions, as well as community safety and security concerns, when making bail decisions. These amendments aim to strengthen the bail system and ensure a more comprehensive assessment of potential risks.

Currently, police lack the resources for bail supervision, relying on personal sureties that often provide inadequate supervision. To address this, community-based bail supervision programs need to be widely available, ensuring effective supervision while providing access to bail for those who lack personal resources. Rest assured, my NDP colleagues and I will push for adequate funding and availability of these programs across Canada, including in remote and rural areas.

As always, should you wish to discuss Bill C-48, or any other matters, I encourage you to contact my assistant, Robert Martin, at: Robert.Martin.810@parl.gc.ca to schedule a meeting.

Sincerely,

Alistair MacGregor
Member of Parliament
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

AM/rm UFCW 232
