



# A Detailed Plan to Secure Public Safety

The most important job of any government is to keep Canadians safe.

Canada's Conservatives understand the threats we face - from pandemics to forest fires, from terrorism to rogue regimes, and from gang members to domestic abusers. We will protect Canadians and stand up for the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day to defend us.

## Justice

Canadians have a right to be free from crimes of violence and exploitation. A Conservative Government will make this right a reality for the millions of Canadians who have been touched by crime.

But Canadians also demand that our prison system be more than a place to separate offenders from society. Our correctional system must be one that actually corrects - and offers a pathway to a life beyond crime.

We believe in the kind of deterrence that decisively separates those who have committed crimes from their victims and potential victims. But we also believe in the potential of those who choose to permanently turn from a criminal past and work towards a future respectful of the rights of fellow Canadians.

## Getting Tough on Domestic Violence

We have let people who commit domestic violence off with a slap on the wrist for far too long. This does a massive disservice to their innocent victims who are left to suffer. It also puts the broader community at risk. We have seen time and again that the criminals who commit acts of violence almost always start by abusing their spouse or partner.

Canada's Conservatives believe that we should impose tough sentences on those who assault their spouse or partner while making it easier for victims to escape their abusers and rebuild their lives.

Canada's Conservatives will protect victims by:

- Amending the Criminal Code so that it is an aggravating factor on sentencing for assault where the victim is in a domestic or dependent relationship with the person.
- Adding a provision to the Criminal Code that specifies the offence is an indictable offence and provides for a mandatory minimum penalty of two years where the Crown can show that an offence of assault, assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm, or aggravated assault is part of a pattern of conduct with the victim, with the Crown required to give notice before trial of its intention to seek this elevated sentence.

- Prohibiting those under peace bond or the subject of a protective order from possessing a “firearm, crossbow, prohibited weapon, restricted weapon, prohibited device, ammunition, prohibited ammunition or explosive substance, or all such thing”.
- Enacting Clare’s Law so that when police investigate a complaint of alleged domestic violence, they are required to notify the victim of the suspect’s relevant criminal history.

Canada’s Conservatives will support victims by:

- Making it easier for women fleeing domestic violence to hide their new location from their abusers.
- Expanding the Canada Child Benefit by \$500 per month per child for the first year and \$250 per month per child for the second year for women with children living in women’s shelters to help them transition to more long-term housing.
- Creating a fund to incentivize educational institutions and private sector organizations to partner with women’s shelters to provide career training for the women they serve.

### Tackling Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Canada’s Conservatives will:

- Strengthen human trafficking laws by making them consistent with the Palermo Protocol and removing the requirement to prove that a trafficker exercised fear or intimidation over a victim.
- Eliminate Preliminary Inquiries in cases of sexual assault to prevent the revictimization of individual victims, including children, who deserve our protection.
- Amend the Criminal Code to clarify that an offence takes place in Canada where, at the time of the offence, the victim was present in Canada.
- Implement legislation to ensure human traffickers serve consecutive sentences for multiple human trafficking offences.
- Amend the Criminal Code by adding procuring offences to the list of designated offences that may be subject to the forfeiture of proceeds of crime. This will ensure that those who profit off sexual exploitation can have their profits seized, the same as drug dealers or criminal organizations.
- Provide \$100 million over five years to support training for non-provincial police forces in the areas of:
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Cyber-security and online offences; and,
  - Investigation of sexual offences.

### Tackling Gang Violence

Canada’s Conservatives will tackle the gang violence that causes too many Canadians to live in fear by:

- Hiring an additional 200 RCMP officers to combat gangs and the smuggling of guns and drugs.
  - The officers will be based in the GTA and the Lower Mainland and will help keep our communities safe.
- Establishing an entities list for criminal gangs.
  - This would eliminate the requirement for Crown Attorneys to prove that an organization is a criminal organization and would only require the Crown to prove that the accused is a member of such an organization.
- Amending the automatic detention provisions of the Criminal Code by adding:
  - “with an offence in the commission of which violence was allegedly used, threatened or attempted and the accused had previously been convicted of for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with, a criminal organization”.
- Amending the Criminal Code so that usage of the same firearm by two separate individuals in the commission of a crime would create a rebuttable presumption that a criminal organization committed the offences.
- Partnering with the private sector to create a Gang Exit Strategy program that will see the power of the private sector harnessed to give offenders the opportunity to escape a cycle of violence and start fresh in a new location with gainful employment and the support needed to leave behind a life of crime.
- Working with partner organizations across the country to develop and expand programs to keep youth out of gangs.

### Combating Gun Violence by Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Criminals

Canada’s Conservatives will go after gun smugglers by:

- Cracking down on “straw purchasing” of firearms by:
  - Amending the Firearms Act so that an individual who, on three separate occasions during a calendar year, transfers a firearm for financial consideration must have a firearms business license.
  - Amending the Criminal Code to add the following aggravating factors on sentencing:
    - The number of firearms transferred
    - Whether financial consideration was exchanged
    - The amount of monetary consideration

- Amending the Criminal Code provisions on unauthorized importing so that:
  - It is an aggravating factor on sentencing if more than one firearm is imported otherwise than under the authority of the Firearms Act
  - A mandatory minimum penalty of three years applies where the unauthorized importing occurs for financial consideration.
- Supporting specialized enforcement against illegal firearms
  - CBSA and RCMP, working closely with American authorities in the United States, will target smuggling operations before illegal firearms reach the border, including by improving and expanding the RCMP contribution to the Integrated Border Enforcement Teams.

Canada's Conservatives have a plan to take action against criminal use of firearms by:

- Amending the Criminal Code provisions on possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose to make it an aggravating factor on sentencing where an individual commits the offence while the subject of a prohibition order under the Firearms Act and had previously been convicted of an offence under that section or an offence against the person while in possession of a firearm.
  - The offence will carry a sentence of from two to ten years.
- Amending the Criminal Code provisions on the unauthorized possession of a firearm by imposing a mandatory minimum sentence of two years if the person was the subject of a prohibition order at the time of the events giving rise to the conviction or had been previously convicted of an offence involving a firearm.
- Partnering with the Ontario Provincial Police to expand the Firearms Tracing and Enforcement database nationally and taking steps to ensure that all crime guns are submitted for testing and analysis and inclusion in this database.

Our focus will be on keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. This contrasts with the Liberals, who have refused to take action against gangs while harassing hunters and sport shooters. Canada's Conservatives will improve the regulation of legal firearms to ensure that it is evidence-based and focuses on protecting public safety.

We will start by repealing C-71 and the May 2020 Order in Council and conducting a review of the Firearms Act with participation by law enforcement, firearms owners, manufacturers, and members of the public. We will then update legislation by introducing a simplified classification system and codifying it in law so that it is clear what types of firearms fit into each category and classification decisions can be made quickly, and with the public and firearms owners having confidence that they are not arbitrary. The legislation will also - for the first time - contain definitions of currently ambiguous terms like "variant."

Canada's Conservatives will further update and improve our firearms legislation by:

- Mandating the automatic surrender to law enforcement of firearms where an individual has been charged with an offence against the person while requiring law enforcement to return the firearms if the charge is dismissed.

- Amending the Firearms Act to authorize a hospital, mental institute, psychiatric clinic, or medical professional to give notice to the Chief Firearms Officer if they provide treatment for a mental illness to a person whom they reasonably believe possesses a firearm and may pose a danger to themselves or others.
- Developing a suicide prevention strategy that encourages people - including legal firearms owners - to seek help when they need it.
  - The current system adds to the stigma associated with mental health and discourages firearms owners from seeking help.
- Amending firearms laws to ensure that no administrative expiry could lead to criminal charges or the seizure of a licence holder's firearm(s).
  - Until an expired licence is renewed, it would remain illegal for licence holders to acquire, by any means, new firearms or ammunition.

### Protecting Vulnerable Seniors

Canadians watched in horror last year as neglected seniors were left to fend for themselves as COVID swept through some Long-Term Care homes. Those who shamelessly abandon or neglect our seniors need to be held accountable.

Canada's Conservatives will provide stronger protection for seniors by amending the Criminal Code provisions on failing to provide the necessities of life to make clear that the operator of a licensed care facility shall be presumed to have a legal duty to the residents of that facility.

### Appropriate Sentences for the Most Serious Crimes

Canada's Conservatives will continue the appeal against the Quebec Court of Appeal decision reducing the sentence for the Quebec City Mosque murderer. If the law under which he was sentenced is eventually struck down, we will introduce new legislation to ensure that multiple murderers face more severe sentences.

### Protecting Critical Infrastructure

Last year's rail blockades demonstrated the importance - and vulnerability - of the infrastructure that ties our country together. Canada's Conservatives will amend the Criminal Code to create an **offence of interference with an infrastructure facility or a public transportation** system punishable by either summary conviction or indictment, depending upon the severity of the crime. Peaceful protest is a fundamental right in Canada, but respect for the rule of law means that illegal blockades that shut down critical infrastructure, threaten access to vital supplies, or endanger lives cannot be tolerated.

### Tackling Rural Crime

Too many politicians and journalists who live in our big cities ignore, don't understand, or simply don't care about what is happening outside the major urban areas. The federal government needs to work with the provinces to combat the increasing problem of rural crime and ensure that families living in small towns and rural areas feel safe in their homes and on their farms.