



To:

Jenica Atwin, Member of Parliament for Fredericton
The Hon. Arif Virani, Minister of Justice
The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety
The Hon. Rechie Valdez, Minister of Small Business

CC:

The Hon. Gudie Hutchins, Minister responsible for ACOA
The Hon. Krista Ross, Senator
Tim Rissesco, President, Downtowns Atlantic Canada
Candice Laing, President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Dear Ms. Atwin and Ministers,

We, the undersigned representatives of Fredericton's business community- including Downtown Fredericton Inc. (DFI), Business Fredericton North Inc. (BFN), and the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce- are writing to address growing concerns about public safety in our city.

While Fredericton has long been celebrated for its welcoming atmosphere and the safety it has offered to residents, visitors, and businesses alike, recent increases in visible crime and social challenges are beginning to undermine the sense of security that we have always known.

The issues we face mirror those of other urban centres across Atlantic Canada and beyond. We are asking you to address these issues head-on to ensure that Canada's urban centres remain thriving and attractive places for years to come.

Businesses in our community are feeling the pressure- stories of theft, vandalism, and harassment are becoming more commonplace- and adding up. These incidents are largely driven by a small group of repeat offenders often facing mental health and addiction issues. While we support a compassionate and comprehensive approach to addressing these issues, we believe a proactive and multi-level government response is urgently needed to ensure our community remains a safe, vibrant, and attractive city for all.



We respectfully request that the federal government consider the following recommendations for immediate action:

- **Justice System Reforms for Repeat Offenders:** A more balanced approach that addresses repeat offenders and places community security as a priority in the justice system is essential to reduce the ongoing cycle of “catch and release.”
- **Federal Funding for Security Infrastructure and Community Initiatives:** Investments in surveillance infrastructure, improved lighting, and beautification programs can create safer public spaces that discourage criminal behavior and encourage economic vitality.

We recognize the need for a coordinated, multi-level government approach and seek your government’s partnership in aligning with our municipal leadership on the following priorities and advocating for the following provincial actions:

Municipal Level:

- **Accelerate the Installation of Public Security Cameras:** Increasing the presence of security cameras in high-risk areas will help deter crime, provide valuable support for law enforcement, and enhance real-time responses to incidents. This infrastructure investment is essential to address immediate safety concerns.
- **Expand Patrol Presence and Resources for the Community Safety Services Unit (CSSU):** Enhancing 24/7 patrols, particularly on foot in business improvement areas (BIAs), would provide the visible safety presence needed to deter criminal activity and build trust between law enforcement and the community.
- **Establish a Street Crime Unit for Foot Patrols in BIAs:** A specialized street crime unit dedicated to addressing criminal activity in BIAs would further support both law enforcement and the business community. By fostering relationships with businesses and residents, a focused unit could improve response times and support community security.

Provincial Level:

- **Mental Health and Addiction Services and Facilities:** We urge the province to establish varied and integrated care facilities for individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges, located outside BIAs. This would alleviate pressure on emergency services and allow BIAs to maintain welcoming, secure environments.



- **Varied, Integrated Housing and PST Exemption on Affordable Housing Projects:** Affordable, varied and integrated housing models are essential for breaking the cycle of homelessness and reducing related criminal activity. Exempting PST on housing developments, particularly for affordable housing, would make a substantial impact by encouraging the construction of necessary housing infrastructure.
- **Expand the Downtown NB (DNB) Investment Initiative:** Continued and expanded funding for capital projects focused on security measures in BIAs is critical. This would empower local business associations to take proactive steps in enhancing safety and deterring crime.

Finally, we ask that all levels of government work together to address the drug supply chain that has led to significant social challenges in our community. A comprehensive strategy targeting both the supply and demand for illicit drugs—through law enforcement, public health, and economic interventions—is necessary to mitigate the broader impact on Fredericton’s public safety and economic resilience.

Our business community is committed to fostering a prosperous and secure environment for all. We present these recommendations with a sense of urgency, as well as an openness to collaborate with all stakeholders to achieve our shared goal of a safe, welcoming, and thriving urban centre.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to continued dialogue and meaningful action in support of Fredericton’s business community and the broader public.

Sincerely,

Adam Peabody
Executive Director
Downtown Fredericton Inc.

Trina MacDonald
General Manager
Business Fredericton North

Morgan Peters
CEO
Fredericton Chamber of Commerce