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December 2, 2025

Subject: A Call to Action: Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Fellow Mayors,

I write to you today not only as the Mayor of Welland, but as a member of a community that has been deeply shaken by an unthinkable act in August 2025: the brutal sexual assault of a three-year-old child. This tragedy has horrified our residents, leaving families in grief and disbelief, and compelling us as leaders to confront the uncomfortable truth that our justice system is failing to adequately protect our most vulnerable.

While no policy can erase the trauma this child and their family will endure, we have a moral obligation to act. This moment demands leadership from all of us, to raise our collective voices and ensure that meaningful reform takes place.

I urge you to join me in calling on provincial and federal governments to take immediate and decisive action by advancing the following measures:

- The full and expedited implementation of recent federal bail and sentencing reforms, so that new provisions designed to protect the public—particularly victims of violent sexual crimes—are applied swiftly and consistently across all jurisdictions.
- Strengthening bail and sentencing provisions so that individuals charged with, or convicted of, violent sexual crimes face the strictest possible conditions, including limits on early release in cases of extreme brutality.
- That parole eligibility for sexual offences against children reflects the full gravity of these crimes, limiting conditional or early release for offenders who pose ongoing risks to community safety.
- Strengthening the National Sex Offender Registry, providing communities and police with timely, accurate information and effective tools to safeguard residents.

Canadians must be able to trust that our justice system prioritizes public safety—especially the safety of children—above all else. Communities like ours cannot bear the weight of knowing that legislative gaps may allow dangerous offenders to harm again.

I am calling on you, my colleagues in municipalities across Canada, to:

1. Pass council resolutions urging your respective provincial governments to review and strengthen laws protecting children from violent offenders.
2. Collaborate through FCM and provincial municipal associations to bring a united municipal voice to Ottawa and all legislatures across the country, advocating for the timely implementation and continued enhancement of justice reforms.
3. Engage your local MPs, MPPs/MLAs, and their governments to advocate for continued legislative and judicial reform.

4. Support awareness and prevention efforts within your communities to reinforce the safety and well-being of every child.

Together, we can create a wave of leadership that demands justice and refuses complacency. The protection of children transcends politics and geography; it is a shared duty that defines who we are as a nation.

Thank you for standing with us in this urgent cause. I would welcome the opportunity to coordinate efforts with you and your councils to move this national call forward.

With respect and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Champion".

Frank Champion
Mayor of Welland