



Chronic Offenders – *Closing the Revolving Door*

Advocacy Paper

September 2025

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1.0 Executive Summary

The statistical picture of reported crime in the City of Kelowna has improved since 2022, yet our citizens and businesses continue to experience the detrimental and costly impacts of chronic property offenders. These individuals often suffer from mental health, brain injury, drug addiction, and homelessness. Jurisdictional authority for justice, health, and housing (including supportive, emergency and complex care housing), rests with federal and provincial governments, yet local governments are seized with these issues.

In support of City Council's Crime & Safety priority, this paper builds on the City's [Community Confidence in Justice Advocacy Paper](#) (2022) by reaffirming the persistent impact of chronic property offenders. There has been progress in the last few years, but the justice system appears incapable of responding swiftly or adequately toward meaningful long-term impact. This paper is grounded in the continued and urgent need for criminal justice reform, particularly in relation to chronic property offenders, and advances the following propositions:

Kelowna crime rate declined 18 per cent (2022 – 2024)

In 2024, Kelowna ranked 44th of 183 cities provincially & 278th of 1,039 nationally

Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510018401>

1. Chronic Offenders are Driving Public Safety Concerns

- A small group of individuals, often struggling with addiction, mental health issues, and homelessness, are responsible for a disproportionate amount of property and violent crime;
- These offenders, too frequently, breach bail conditions and reoffend shortly after release; and
- The justice system is failing to deter or rehabilitate, leading to an increasingly rapid 'revolving door', driving a steep escalation in policing costs as well as frustration and fatigue among the public and police, alike.

2. Public Confidence in the Justice System is Declining

- Courts are beset by systemic delays, inadequate laws, and a marked lack of resources;
- In the last decade, the rate at which persons are criminally charged declined 43 per cent provincially and 48 per cent in Kelowna, compared to 11 per cent nationally;
- Between 2019 and 2024, British Columbia's charge rate per capita was the lowest in Canada; and
- British Columbians report lower confidence in their provincial courts compared to other Canadians.

3. Bail Laws are too Lenient for Chronic Offenders

- Federal bail reforms (Bills C-75 and C-48) prioritize release over detention, even for chronic offenders;
- The principle of restraint in bail decisions is seen as ineffective for chronic property offenders;
- Kelowna is seeing a four-fold increase in non-compliance among offenders released on bail; and
- Kelowna supports calls for presumptive detention and stricter bail conditions for chronic offenders.

This paper calls for concrete action from the federal and provincial levels of governments to reverse the current trend and restore public confidence in the administration of justice by:

- Amending bail provisions in the *Criminal Code*
- Closing the increasingly rapid revolving door on chronic offenders
- Actioning additional recommendations from the BC Government's 2022 *Repeat Offending* report
- Investing in BC Prosecution Service

Specifically, we are calling for **federal action** through *Criminal Code* amendments to:

1. Prioritize public safety in bail decisions
2. Make chronic property offending an aggravating factor in sentencing
3. Strengthen secondary and tertiary grounds for detention
4. Improve monitoring and enforcement of bail conditions

There is an equally pressing need for **provincial action**, including:

1. Implement remaining recommendations from the BC Government's 2022 "[A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia](#)" (Butler & LePard), including:
 - a. Civilian-led mental health crisis teams
 - b. Low secure units for complex cases
 - c. Retail/business police liaison roles
 - d. More Crown prosecutors dedicated to chronic offender cases
2. Reform charge approval processes to reduce burden on prosecutors
3. Increase probation officer capacity and improve bail compliance models

This is about prioritizing public safety, increasing sense of safety, and restoring public confidence. Kelowna's local efforts are not enough. Despite investing heavily in policing (\$28M in 2016 to \$58M in 2025) and housing solutions, the problems persist in the absence of coordinated and well-resourced action from federal and provincial governments to address underlying systemic issues.

The City of Kelowna calls on the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to provide the necessary legislative reforms, resources and mandatory care infrastructure to effectively address the issue of chronic property crime. Comprehensive criminal justice reform is needed to go beyond 'revolving door' policing and ensure a safer, healthier, and just British Columbia.

2.0 Issue/Impact

Set in the breathtakingly beautiful Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, surrounded by the wonders of nature, Kelowna is a Canadian jewel. Its downtown incorporates a waterfront park and a lakeside cultural district. As a region, we proudly welcome 2.2 million visitors annually; ten times our base population.

Like most Canadian cities, however, Kelowna is facing public safety and public welfare issues which require effective responses from multiple levels of government. Increasingly, residents of Kelowna feel and perceive that they are not safe on the streets while business owners suffer from continuing property crime that threatens the viability of their businesses despite their costly proactive efforts.

We hear, know, and share the frustration that residents and business owners are experiencing with property crime in our community

The ongoing confluence of life-altering and deadly drugs and a mental health crisis, coupled with the increased cost of living, has resulted in more people living on our streets. The social net of housing and health supports are simply unable to keep pace with what is occurring. The criminal justice system is not designed or the appropriate response to the complex social problems these individuals face daily.

Further, the problems described have migrated to most parts of our city. The small group responsible for a disproportionate amount of property crime, including shoplifting, break-ins, vandalism and threatening behaviour are among the cohort of those who also resort to violence on our streets. These perpetrators are not specialist criminals. Their crimes are unplanned crimes of opportunity as they are often pitiable individuals funding their addictions, sometimes just surviving, and ignorant of the damage they are inflicting on others. Nevertheless, these are criminal incidents that cannot be ignored. Indeed, these offenders need care and a treatment pathway. At the same time, they must face consequences to motivate change in future behaviour.

After Canada's bail laws were amended in 2019, Kelowna police experienced more than a four-time increase in individuals failing to appear (FTA) for court in the first three years – from 331 in 2019 to 1,462 in 2022¹. In 2024, 15 chronic offenders accounted for 1,355 files; nearly three per cent of all police files. Whether we refer to this subset of individuals as persistent, repeat, chronic, super chronic, or prolific, the fact remains that they continue to commit violent and property crime unabated and at a rate which undermines public confidence in justice and *sense of safety*.

3.0 Chronic Offenders



In the past, violent and chronic property offenders were viewed as distinct groups. Today, in Kelowna, we experience a continuum in which the same individuals are engaged in property *and* violent offences. It is fostering a criminal ecosystem, and our experience is not unique. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities recently called for a [fix to Canada's bail system](#), observing that repeat offenders pose a significant risk to communities.

Property crime committed by chronic offenders is the most visible and disruptive form of criminal activity in Kelowna. Chronic offenders, often struggling with addiction, brain injury, physical and mental health issues, and homelessness are responsible for a disproportionate share of break-ins, thefts, and vandalism. The impacts are far-reaching locally:

- Residents feel unsafe in neighborhoods, parks, trails and our downtown, leading to decreased quality of life;
- Businesses in Kelowna face significant financial losses, increased security and insurance costs, as well as operational disruptions, all which can deter investment and economic growth; and
- Finite and costly police resources are consumed by chronic property offenders, more so than any other segment of our population
 - In 2024, 15 individuals accounted for 1,335 police files in Kelowna; each averaging 89 police files last year and a negative contact with police every four days.

The pattern of persistent criminality by this select group is staggering and relentless. Police, fire, paramedics, bylaw, outreach and other frontline workers are stretched thin, frustrated and burning out as they work tirelessly to provide essential services to keep our community safe.

¹ Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701>

Below are three subject profiles highlighting the impact when care and consequences are absent, and offenders are, seemingly, undeterred and emboldened. Unfortunately, these profiles are typical and do not represent outliers. Subject C, for example, is not among Kelowna's top 15 cited above.

Subject A: The Frequent Flyer

Subject A accumulated 223 founded files between 2021 and 2025, including 31 breaches of bail or probation and 32 failures to appear, with offences occurring almost monthly and involving assaults, thefts, threats, and public disturbances. Many offences happened shortly after release, indicating quick reoffending under bail conditions.

Subject B: The Ecosystem of Property crimes and Violent offences

Between 2021 and 2025, Subject B had 85 founded files, predominately property crimes including multiple thefts over \$5,000 and motor vehicle thefts, alongside serious violent crimes such as assaults with weapon and robberies. The subject frequently breached bail and probation conditions and committed multiple offences within short timeframes, often reoffending immediately after release.

Subject C: Escalating Pattern of Violence

From January to July 2025, Subject C accumulated 70 founded files including 13 violent offences like assaults and robbery, and 39 non-violent offences such as trespassing and drug possession. The subject displayed escalating violent behaviour with multiple weapon-related assaults and robberies, persistent breaches of bail and probation, and high criminal activity breaching multiple conditions.

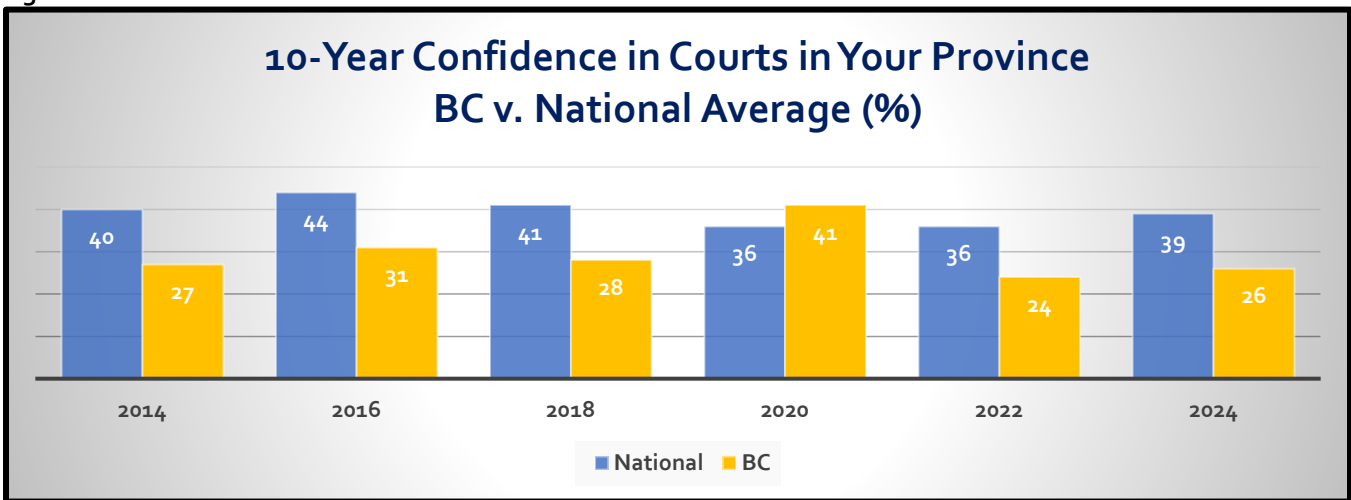
All three subjects demonstrate a consistent disregard for judicial conditions including patterns of breaching bail or probation conditions and failures to appear in court, each requiring significant police resources to track, transport, process and release: again and again. Of growing concern and bewilderment is how this 'revolving door' persists in the case of chronic offenders given Canada's current *Criminal Code* provides three grounds for Courts to consider when deciding whether to hold an accused in custody or to release back to community:

1. Primary ground considers whether the accused will attend for trial, if released;
2. Secondary ground concerns the accused's likelihood of recommitting an offence, if released; and
3. Tertiary ground concerns maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice.

4.0 Confidence in the Justice System

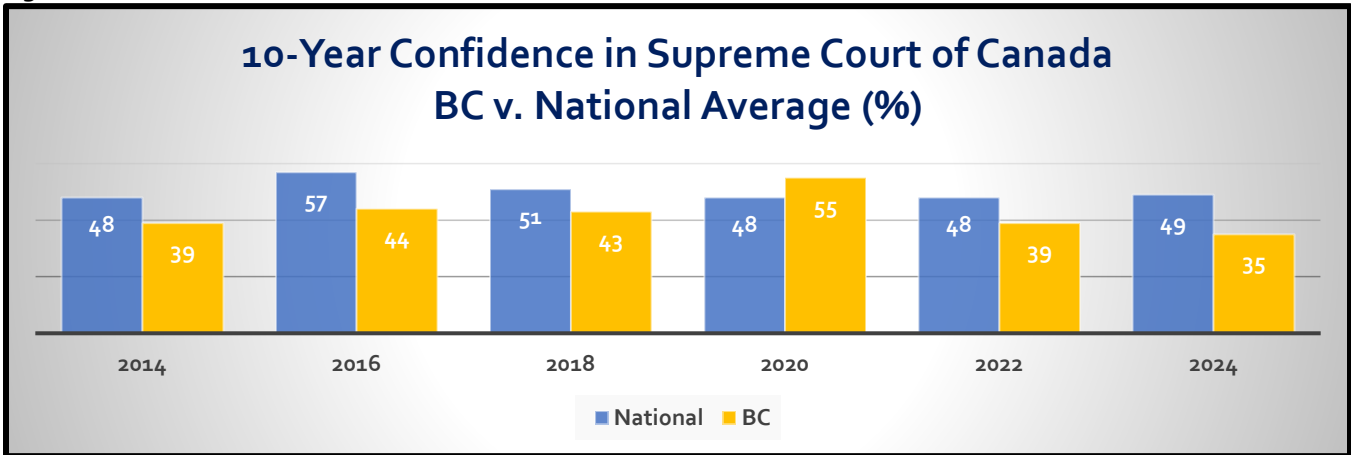
Our justice system needs the public's confidence and trust. Maintaining confidence in the administration of justice is a factor in a court's decision to detain an accused instead of releasing them on bail. According to biannual surveys conducted by Angus Reid that capture confidence in provincial courts (Figure 1) and the Supreme Court of Canada (Figure 2), confidence among British Columbians is significantly lower than other Canadians.

Figure 1



Source – Angus Reid Institute, July 2025

Figure 2



Source – Angus Reid Institute, July 2025

To understand this disparity in confidence among British Columbians, a historical comparative review of crime and charge rates, as well as provincial sentencing patterns, may be revealing.

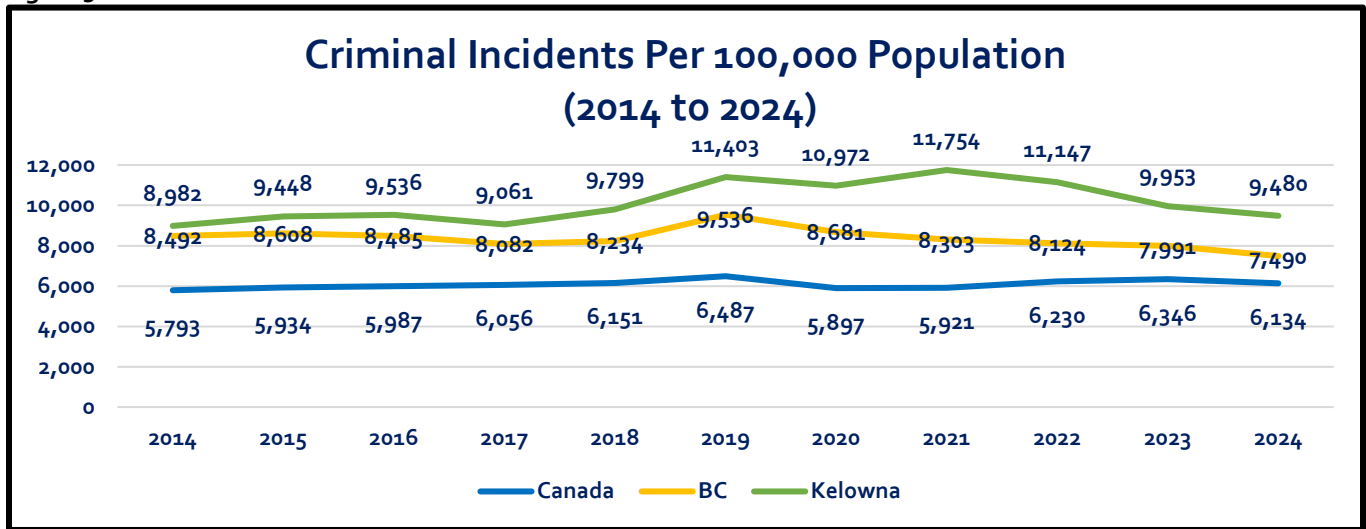
4.1 CRIME AND CHARGE RATES

In British Columbia and Kelowna, there is a growing disconnect between the rate of reported crime (Figure 3) and the rate of approved charges (Figure 4), especially when compared to national averages.

- Between 2014 and 2024, the national rate of reported incidents of crime increased by 5.6 per cent while the national charge rate **decreased 11 per cent**.
- During this same period, the rate of reported incidents in British Columbia decreased 11.8 per cent while the provincial charge rate **decreased 43 per cent**.

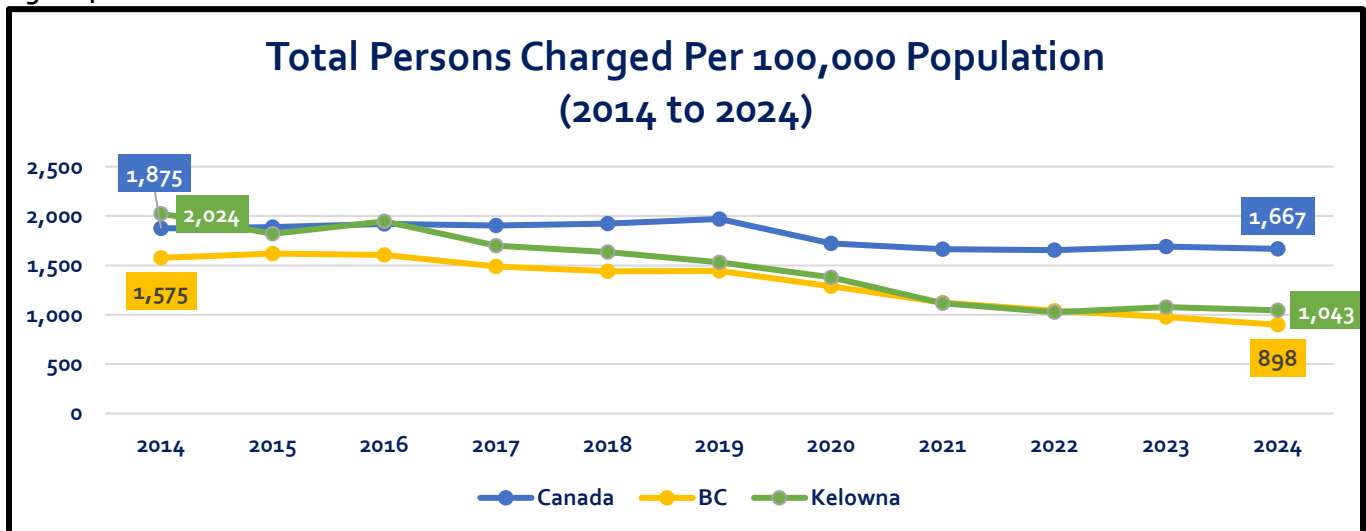
In Kelowna, the contrast is even more pronounced. Between 2014 and 2024, Kelowna's rate of reported incidents increased by 5.5 per cent, consistent with the national increase, yet the local charge rate **decreased 48.5 per cent**.

Figure 3



Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701>

Figure 4



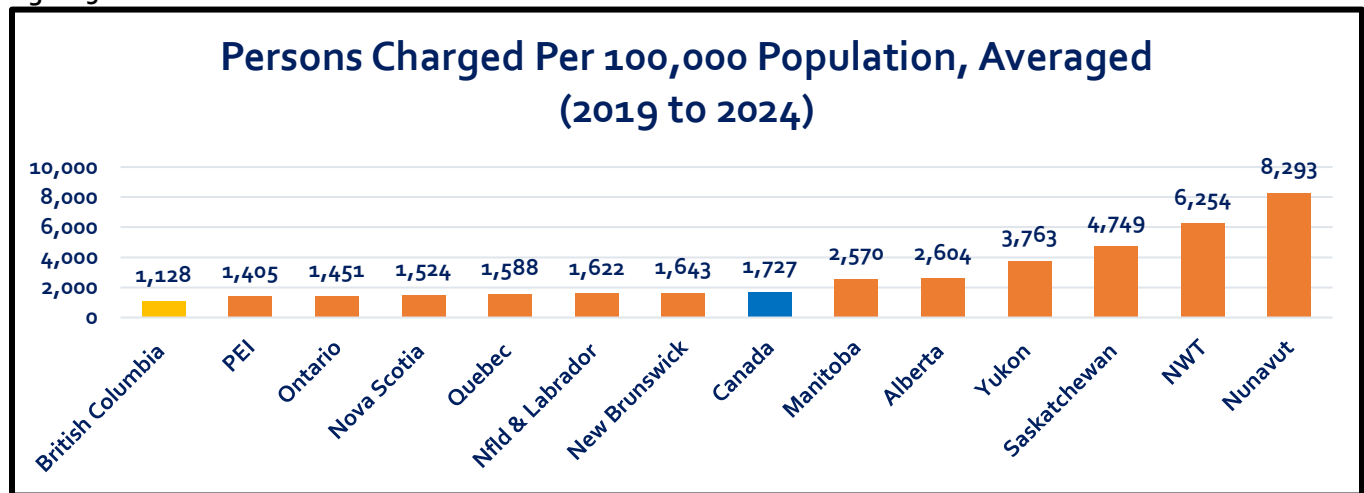
Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701>

Between 2014 and 2024, BC charge rate decreased 43 per cent and Kelowna decreased 48.5 per cent; compared to an 11 per cent decrease nationally

It is acknowledged that some federal legislative and policy changes in recent years were designed to decrease charge rates for select offences and offenders within our criminal justice system. Further, it is understood that in BC, Quebec, New Brunswick and now Alberta (2023/24), police *recommend* charges while only the Crown *approves* charges. There is merit to the federal legislative/policy changes as well as the Crown-based 'gatekeeper' model in BC.

It is also understood that only the BC Crown Prosecution assesses whether to approve charges based on a higher threshold of *substantial likelihood* of conviction, compared to *reasonable likelihood/prospect* used in all other provinces. Together, the Crown-approval model and higher charge approval threshold distinguish BC nationally. With inadequate Crown prosecutors – at least locally – these features may explain why a comparative national review of charge rates per capita between 2019 and 2024 (Figure 5) reveals our province as an outlier.

Figure 5



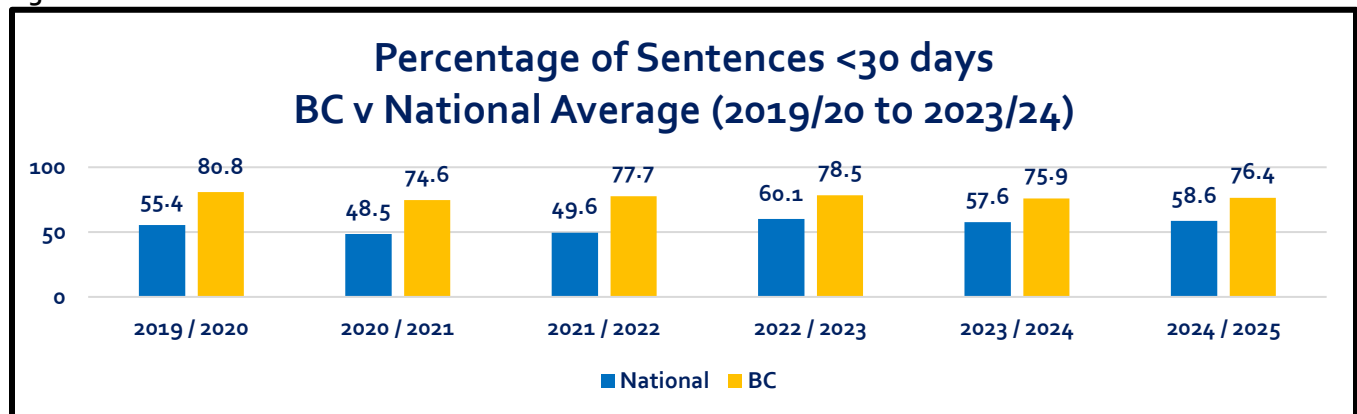
Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3510017701>

Over the last five years, British Columbia charge rates were the lowest in Canada.

4.2 SENTENCING

In addition to the disconnect between British Columbia's charge rates, there is a similar difference observed in the custodial sentences handed down by our courts. A five-year review of custodial sentences under 30 days underscores a generalized public perception of 'leniency'. Nationally, between 2019 and 2024, 48 to 58 per cent of custodial sentences were for a term of less than 30 days. In British Columbia, however, 75 to 80 per cent of jail sentences handed down were for less than 30 days. It is patently unreasonable to expect any correctional system to affect an offender's underlying conditions and/or criminal behaviour - through training, treatment or individual deterrence - when the duration of sentences is so low.

Figure 6



Source - <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/cv.action?pid=3510017601>

The proposition here is that the comparatively high prevalence of short sentencing in British Columbia, aggravated by the fact that our province has the lowest charge rate in Canada, may explain why British Columbians historically hold lower confidence in the justice system. Given that *maintaining confidence in the administration of justice* is a legislated consideration in determining whether to release an offender, there appears to be insufficient consideration and deference occurring locally and provincially.

5.0 Kelowna Cares – the City’s Actions

The City of Kelowna recognizes and emphasizes that many of those who are homeless, addicted, or suffering from mental health challenges are not engaged in criminal activity. We recognize that any legislative reforms to our criminal justice system must be focused on the needs of the public, including those who come into conflict with the law, to create a better life for *all* residents. Further, we know that investment in prevention and strategic upstream partnerships yield undeniable returns throughout our community.

Kelowna is doing what it can. In 2021, Kelowna was among the first in western Canada to lead local system leaders toward a shared vision and collective commitment to a [Community Safety Plan](#). This five-year plan focuses on the social determinants of health to reduce the root causes of crime and is driving action - and results - to reduce risk, vulnerability and harm in our community. To date, more than 20 of 30 Actions are underway engaging numerous provincial ministries and more than 50 organizations community-wide.

Further, Kelowna has also been proactive in developing housing, shelter, and complex care solutions through strategic partnerships with BC Housing (BCH). Most recently, through the BCH HEART & HEARTH program, 180 rapid-shelter housing units with wrap around services were completed. At the same time, the broader community continues to bear the high cost of managing encampments, emergency responses and more. In a 2024 review of these response costs, the City conservatively estimated that more than \$20 million was spent between 2019 and 2023. In the same way that Kelowna has been a leading voice and actor in BC for housing solutions, the justice system must simultaneously and boldly embrace reform.

The recent report, [Everyone Counts 2024](#), Canada’s national point in time count of homelessness, underscores the persistent challenges facing communities like Kelowna. Despite increased investment between 2020-22 and 2024 leading to a national 62 per cent growth in those sheltered in Transitional Housing (i.e., 180 spaces created at STEP place, Trailside and Balsam Place in Kelowna), the national unsheltered population grew by 107 per cent in the same period. Municipal governments are doing what they can, but their resources are no match for the continued growth in the homeless population.

Emphasis on both adequate care and consequences flows through all our work. While Kelowna partners and invests extensively to expand our local social net, we cannot turn the tide alone. We need viable, actionable, and fiscally prudent responses, which are also effective. The solutions must be clear and relatable to the problems we face.

Kelowna has taken a leadership role by investing significantly in policing. Since 2016, we have added more police officers than any other comparable city in British Columbia; increasing by 40 per cent – from 179 to 251 – and more than doubling the policing budget to \$58M; the single largest operating line item in the City’s 2025 budget. At the same time, Provincial police resources have only increased by one police officer.

Between 2021 and 2024, alone, Kelowna added 34 police officers while the BC Prosecution Services reports four new FTEs for the Interior Region

Kelowna has been a strong advocate for criminal justice reform for several years, leading to its [Community Confidence in Justice Advocacy Paper](#) (2022). That paper focused on the need for reforms at the provincial level. The BC Government responded by commissioning researchers Amanda Butler and Doug LePard to develop its own report entitled, [“A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British](#)

[Columbia](#)". Positive actions emerged from that work, including the Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII) – which has proven a success across BC, including in Kelowna.

Since 2022, however, only a handful of the 28 expert recommendations have been actioned. More is required. The solutions, garnered through extensive engagement and defined by industry-leading experts, are already identified within this comprehensive Provincial plan. Prompt action on the remaining recommendations would enhance community safety and improve justice. We need decisive action and investments to address the pressing issues at hand and improve community safety across BC.

6.0 Action Required by Governments

It is vitally important that governments respond swiftly, decisively and sustainably to address the evolving situation on our streets; doing so in an integrated manner and employing evidence around proven practices to provide a framework for success. The goal must be to breathe renewed life into those who intersect regularly with those in the criminal justice system.

The justice system fails these individuals and the broader community when it allows chronic offenders to return to the streets after being charged with an offence, knowing full well that, without the necessary supports, there is a *substantial likelihood to reoffend* and a high unlikelihood that the individual will attend court. This makes judicial interim release, or bail, a critical component and fracture point in the system.

While municipalities and provinces can advocate for stricter enforcement and monitoring, meaningful reform requires federal leadership. During the Fall 2025 session, Parliament will reconsider the law of bail. It is critical that legislators craft laws which are effective on our streets – for cities of all sizes - and that the persistent negative impact of repeated property crime is captured within legislative reforms.

6.1 CITY SUPPORTS PROVINCIAL CALL FOR BAIL REFORM

Canada's law of judicial interim release, or bail, changed dramatically as a result of a significant Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision ([R. v. Antic, 2017 SCC 27](#)). To uphold the fundamental Charter-protected presumption of innocence asserted in the SCC decision, Parliament followed in 2019 with Bill C-75, which codified a 'principle of restraint' and significantly raised the bar for pre-trial detention. In effect, the current legislation favours release on bail over detention for both violent and non-violent crime. Further, it requires that bail occur at the 'earliest reasonable opportunity' and include the 'least onerous conditions'.

In 2024, Federal Parliament passed Bill C-48 amending bail provisions in the Criminal Code to address serious repeat violent offending and address enhanced risks posed by intimate partner violence. At the time, the government acknowledged that the reforms were only one part of a broader solution to ensure the objectives of Canada's bail system are being met.

Bill C-48 addresses the issue of repeat offenders, particularly violent offenders. I only see moderate success. What does the Bill do to mitigate the effects of repeat property offenders, such as we see in our local business establishments?"

— participant at Kelowna Chamber of Commerce Roundtable on Crime (Aug 2024)

In summer 2025, BC Attorney General, Niki Sharma, wrote to her federal counterpart to emphasize the need for better tools to break the cycle of repeat offenders who demonstrate a lack of respect for the law. Minister Sharma

asked for presumptive detention for offenders with multiple prior convictions for violent offences or breach of conditions. She argued that the principle of restraint should be repealed or overhauled for these categories of repeat offenders.

Minister Sharma also expressed her view that *time-served* sentences, which allow offenders to accumulate time at an expedited rate in pre-trial detention rather than seek bail, is a widespread issue; citing now dated [research](#) about five Canadian courts that found “41.3% of the offenders in the study were sentenced to a time served sentence.” The absence of an escalator provision which prevents individuals from obtaining multiple one-day or time served sentences allows the cycle to continue and undercuts the effect of bail restrictions by allowing repeat offenders back into the community. We support Minister Sharma’s proposals.

6.2 CALL TO ACTION – PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Although the *Criminal Code* is a federal statute, the provinces are responsible for the administration of justice, including police, prosecutors, and the courts, as well as the appointment of provincial court judges. Recently, Federal Justice Minister Sean Fraser observed that provinces have a “*big role to play*” in resolving problems facing the criminal justice system, including, “*making sure judges and justices of the peace who make bail decisions have proper training, and detention centres have enough capacity.*” He also urged the co-operation of provincial governments to enforce targeted bail reform.

For our criminal justice system to work effectively, all components must work in a seamless fashion. Police, prosecutors, judges, and probation, parole and corrections are all critical to success. When one component is inefficient or ineffective, regardless of the reason (funding, resourcing, or legal impediments), the system malfunctions. That is what we are witnessing today on the streets of Kelowna, and throughout communities provincially and nationally.

Further Action the Butler LePard Report Recommendations

A provincial plan already exists; we do not need another ‘Plan’. We require decisive action and follow through on key recommendations from the Butler LePard report, commissioned by the Province in 2022, including:

- [Recommendation #1](#) - Continue to invest in civilian-led (non-police) mental health crisis response teams (e.g. Peer Assisted Care Teams now known as CRCL – Crisis Response, Community Led);
- [Recommendation #5](#) - Create low secure units for clients with complex mental health and substance use needs;
- [Recommendation #19](#) - Establish a police-based retail/business liaison position as a provincially-funded ongoing resource; and
- [Recommendation #22](#) - BC Prosecution Service to increase the number of Crown Counsel dedicated to repeat offender cases in communities large enough to warrant them.

Since 2022, the City of Kelowna has been a provincial leader highlighting the acute need for more Crown Counsel in Kelowna. To date, we understand that there has been a net increase of one local prosecutor serving the Okanagan/Kootenay Region. Our continued call for action is amplified by the BC Crown Counsel Association (BCCCA) in its recent (May 2025) formal workload grievance citing “[inadequate staffing and increasing workload](#)” in the Region. The BCCCA noted that staffing was causing delays, case backlogs, and stayed charges while also negatively impacting its workforce, leading to burnout and further under-resourcing.

The proposition here is that inadequate resources lead to systemic disillusionment. Overwhelmed Crown Counsel are forced to triage-out legitimate but less-serious charges recommended by the police. Police pragmatically adapt and more selectively recommend such charges, and the public loses faith in our justice institutions.

To ensure timely justice:

- **Invest in our BC Prosecution Service**
 - The Province must significantly increase the number of Crown prosecutors. Kelowna requires five prosecutors on an urgent basis and at least two dedicated to chronic offenders and bail.
 - Resources should be allocated to support complex cases involving mental health, addiction, and repeat offences.
 - Prosecutors should be provided with the human and technological supports to effectively do their jobs.
- **Plan for Growth in our BC Prosecution Service**
 - Kelowna is the seventh largest and fastest growing community in BC. On an ongoing basis, a transparent framework for assessing prosecutor resourcing levels is needed including demonstrable metrics (i.e., crown per population, caseload, crime incidents, police resources).
- **Streamline work for BC Prosecutors - Consider Change to the Charge Approval Process**
 - British Columbia is one of only a few provinces which requires that Crown approve every charge. This is not required by the *Criminal Code* and is a significant drag on Crown resources. It does not have to be an all or nothing policy. Instead, the *Code* provides for stays of prosecution which can be directed by the Crown if it is not comfortable with a charge proceeding. Although charge approval has considerable merit for serious offences, it is unnecessary for most property and administration of justice offences. By triaging out these lesser, but troublesome offences, and reverting to police laying charges, a significant burden can be removed from the workload of Crown prosecutors.
- **Support our Community Probation Office**
 - It is critical that the Province ensure that it has sufficient and trained community probation officers in Kelowna to oversee and manage chronic property offenders who are released by the courts; ensuring that accused persons on bail obtain the services they require and that non-compliance with their terms of release leads to an immediate return to custody. This requires effective, locally adapted bail compliance models, which help address the root causes of repeat offending through stronger support and supervision.

6.3 CALL TO ACTION – FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Canada's current Justice Minister and Attorney General, the Hon. Sean Fraser, is expected to introduce amendments to the *Criminal Code* during the Fall 2025 Session of Parliament, allowing for stricter bail conditions and sentencing for certain crimes. These amendments are anticipated to build on Bill C-48, which came into force January 2024. It included presumptive detention for 'serious repeat violent offenders with weapons' and for intimate partner violence.

While applauding this step, the current bail system continues to rapidly release chronic offenders, undermine public confidence as well as the public's perception and *sense of safety*. While upholding the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the City of Kelowna urges the federal government to ensure that proposed legislative reforms:

- Prioritize public safety in bail decisions;
- Require stricter conditions, or detention for chronic offenders with a history of violent or repeat property offences while on bail; and
- Improve monitoring and stricter enforcement of bail conditions – with clear consequences, if breached.

Further, the City of Kelowna – echoing some of the recommendations derived from the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in its 2023 [Report on the Modernization of the Bail System: Strengthening Public Safety](#) - calls on the Government of Canada to:

- **Amend the *Criminal Code*** to protect the public and maintain confidence in the administration of justice, by strengthening bail provisions for chronic property offenders. This will require a presumption that an accused from this cohort, which requires clear definition, must be detained prior to trial unless the accused can show cause for release.
- **Amend the *Criminal Code*** to provide courts with guidance respecting the Secondary and Tertiary grounds for detention:
 - For Secondary grounds, a criminal record and recent interactions with police must be considered as indicators that an individual is likely to reoffend while on bail; and
 - For Tertiary grounds, courts must be provided guidance on how to interpret the public's concerns with the administration of justice.
- **Amend the *Criminal Code*** to make chronic property offending an aggravating circumstance for sentencing, thereby ensuring that these offenders receive sentences which reflect their criminal history.

7.0 Conclusion

The City of Kelowna urges the Governments of Canada and British Columbia to act decisively to provide the legislative reforms, resources, and mandatory care infrastructure to effectively deal with the issue of offenders on our streets; violent offenders and chronic property offenders. Criminal justice reform must go beyond 'revolving door' policing to address the root causes of crime and ensure that the justice system is equipped to respond effectively. Bail reform, prosecutorial capacity, and mandatory secure care are essential pillars for a safer, healthier, and just, British Columbia.