

Ontario Auto Mayors
1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, ON
L6H 0H3

May 18th, 2023

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Dear Minister,

The Auto Mayors urgently request the federal government to do its essential part, without which no real, lasting progress can be made, to end the epidemic levels of auto theft in Canada and Ontario.

In Ontario, a vehicle is stolen every 48 minutes. The number of auto thefts in the province has increased by 72 percent from 2014 to 2021, and by 14 percent in the last year alone.

Auto theft has become an issue of personal safety, with increased levels of home invasions and car jackings. As noted by the Équité Association, the Port of Montreal is a major point of departure for stolen vehicles.

Work underway by other participants in the fight against auto theft will soon dry up the ways thieves sell stolen vehicles here in Canada will leave the Port of Montreal as the gaping hole in the security of the nation needed to stop the epidemic of auto thefts. Sadly, the federal government agency, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA), that Canadians expect to plug the hole the nation's security through which so many stolen vehicles escape, is not being effective in the Port of Montreal. The Federal government needs to take a more aggressive approach to stop auto thefts.

We are aware of heightened and useful efforts by all the many other partners needed fight auto theft, except by the Government of Canada. All other stakeholders are actively involved in the work to stop auto theft: automobile owners, law enforcement, automobile manufacturers, dealers in new and used cars, salvage operators, car repairers, automobile insurers, manufacturers and installers of theft deterrent systems, licensing and customs authorities, and the judicial system.

Canada's automotive manufacturing sector is intensifying its efforts to make its models more resistant to auto theft technologies. Sadly, the result is a technological race as thieves quickly adapt and invent or discover ways around new anti-theft measures.

Powerful incentives are driving the crisis in auto thefts. When caught, punishment is light. Profits are high and easy. Overseas demand for vehicles can fetch two times their value. Crime groups use auto theft profits to fuel their exploitation of the public with drugs, guns, and human trafficking.

Theft of automobiles is not a victimless crime. Health care, court, policing, legal, insurance premiums, and out-of-pocket costs associated with auto theft cost Ontarians millions per year.

Along with the Ontario government, which announced measures in May to reduce auto theft, we urge you to take action to stop auto theft by plugging the gaping hole in the security of the Port of Montreal by enabling and making the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) do the job Canadians expect.

The rest of participants in the fight against auto theft, such as the automotive industry, insurance industry, and organizations such as the Auto Mayors and the Canadian Automobile Association, which represents millions of Canadian drivers, will welcome and thank you for stepping up and doing your part to the auto theft epidemic.

The Auto Mayors support you and the broader stakeholder community in the fight against auto theft and we look forward to the good results that will always result when we all work together to solve problems. Sincerely,

Mayor Rob Burton
Town of Oakville
Chair, Auto Mayors



CC:

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Regional Municipality of
Durham

Regional Chair Gary Carr
Regional Municipality of
Halton

Regional Chair Jim Bradley
Regional Municipality of
Niagara

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County of Huron

Warden George Cornell
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