



**HALTON
POLICE
BOARD**
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VIA EMAIL

The Hon. David Lametti, PC, MP, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
The Hon. Marco Mendicino, PC, MP, Federal Minister of Public Safety
The Hon. Bill Blair, PC, MP, Federal Minister of Emergency Preparedness
The Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Attorney General of Ontario
The Hon. Michael Kerzner, MPP, Solicitor General of Ontario
The Hon. Karina Gould, PC, MP – Burlington
The Hon. Anita Anand, PC, MP – Oakville
The Hon. Michael Chong, PC, MP – Wellington-Halton Hills
Pam Damoff, MP – Oakville North-Burlington
Adam van Koeverden, MP – Milton
The Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP – Wellington-Halton Hills
The Hon. Parm Gill, MPP – Milton
Natalie Pierre, MPP – Burlington
Stephen Crawford, MPP – Oakville
Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP – Oakville North-Burlington
Gary Carr, Chair, Halton Regional Council
Tim Shearman, President, Canadian Automobile Association
Celyeste Power, President & CEO, the Insurance Bureau of Canada
Terri O'Brien, CEO, Équité Association
Andrew Minor, President, Canadian Association of Police Governance
Patrick Weaver, Chair, Ontario Association of Police Boards

July 6, 2023

Please be advised that at its meeting held Thursday, June 29, 2023, the Halton Police Board adopted the following resolution:

RE: Auto Theft Advocacy Approach

WHEREAS, automobile theft continues to be a serious issue in Canada, with thefts exceeding \$1 billion in value having occurred in Canada in 2022 (according to Équité Association);

WHEREAS, Ontario experienced in excess of 30,000 auto thefts in 2022, equating to more than 3 every hour;

WHEREAS, within Halton itself, there were 1,302 reported auto thefts in 2022, marking an alarming rise of 49.3% from the previous year and in the first three months of 2023 vehicle thefts were at 421 which is a 77.7%% increase over the same time frame in 2022;

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WHEREAS auto theft is a national concern that requires the collective commitment of the government, the automobile industry, law enforcement agencies, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders;

WHEREAS the Halton Police Board acknowledges the tireless efforts of all law enforcement agencies and recognizes the considerable investments made by automobile manufacturers and the insurance industry in vehicle security systems and their prevention;

WHEREAS each stolen auto represents a significant threat to the health and safety of first responders, and to members of the public, given the reckless manner in which they are driven, and the wanton disregard for public safety;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has contributed significantly towards combating this crime with the provision of \$52 Million towards enforcement initiatives and education;

WHEREAS there still exists a pressing need for more advanced and widespread preventive measures and strategies to curb the rising trend of auto thefts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Halton Police Board hereby appeals to:

1. *The Government of Canada, to:*
 - a. *Develop and implement stricter regulations on the trade and handling of stolen automobiles and automobile parts;*
 - b. *Provide more robust support to national and local law enforcement agencies in the form of funding, resources, and legislation to combat auto theft;*
 - c. *Promote public awareness campaigns focused on prevention measures and the societal costs associated with auto theft;*
 - d. *Leverage the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) authorities and powers to inspect shipment containers before they leave The Port of Montreal or other Ports in Canada, and also ensure the involvement of the RCMP in assisting in doing so at major national and international ports;*
 - e. *Encourage collaboration and intelligence sharing between law enforcement, customs, and port authorities to increase the efficacy of interception efforts;*

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- f. *Enact legislation requiring the inclusion of theft-deterrent technologies in new vehicle models as a condition of import, to ensure that all vehicles entering Canada have appropriate security measures in place;*
2. *Automobile Manufacturers, to:*
 - a. *Increase investment in developing and implementing innovative, theft-deterrent technologies in new vehicle models;*
 - b. *Collaborate with law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders in sharing information and best practices regarding vehicle security;*
 - c. *Establish robust tracking systems and rapid response protocols for stolen vehicles to increase the chances of recovery and prosecution;*
3. *Insurance Industry, to:*
 - a. *Collaborate with automobile manufacturers to incentivize the inclusion of theft-deterrent technologies in vehicles through reduced premium rates;*
 - b. *Support public awareness initiatives about the importance of vehicle security and the impact of auto theft on insurance premiums;*
 - c. *Strengthen cooperation with law enforcement agencies by sharing data that could assist in identifying theft trends and potentially stolen vehicles;*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Halton Police Board urges other police service boards across Canada to echo this call for action, facilitating a united, national approach to tackling auto theft.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. David Lametti, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Hon. Marco Mendicino, Federal Minister of Public Safety, the Hon. Bill Blair, Federal Minister of Emergency Preparedness, the Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario, Halton MP's and MPP's, Halton Regional Council, the Canadian Automobile Association, the Insurance Bureau of Canada, Équité Association, the Canadian Association of Police Governance and the Ontario Association of Police Boards for their information and action.

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On behalf of the Halton Police Board, we request that you consider endorsement of this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature appears to be 'JK'.

Jeff Knoll
Chair, Halton Police Board

cc: Stephen Tanner, Chief of Police
Fred Kaustinen, Chief Governance Officer, Halton Police Board

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