

Motion
Big City Mayors' Caucus

Investigating the Impacts of "Catch and Release" Justice in Canada's Largest Cities

Mayor Dave Bronconnier, City of Calgary

[1] Key Considerations:

- Many Canadians are concerned about the growing and invasive threat that criminal activity has on their cities, communities and quality of life;
- Coordination and cooperation by all orders of government is required for the successful eradication of criminal activity in Canadian cities and communities;
- Municipal police services do an excellent job in finding and arresting the perpetrators of criminal activity;
- Many of these individuals are repeat offenders with multiple criminal convictions, who are released shortly after their arrest, resulting in what is termed as "catch and release" justice; and
- Canadians are largely unaware of the nature, scope and depth of the catch and release issue and the negative impact it has on the quality of life in their communities.

[2] Key Directions:

This motion directs that:

- (1)** All members of the Big City Mayors' Caucus agree to request their police commissions to participate in a study to identify the nature, scope and depth of how "catch and release" justice is impacting the human and financial resources of municipal police services and the communities in which they protect and serve; and
- (2)** The Big City Mayors' Caucus agree to establish a working group to compile the results and report back on their findings at a subsequent meeting of the Caucus to be held not later than March 1, 2008; and
- (3)** The Big City Mayors' Caucus' communicate their findings and make recommendations to the federal, provincial and territorial governments in order to effectively deal with this important issue.
- (4)** The Big City Mayors' Caucus call upon the Government of Canada to reintroduce Bill C-35 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (reverse onus in bail hearings for firearm-related offences)* which would require dangerous offenders to prove to the courts that they should be released pending trial, to the same stage it was before Parliament was prorogued to help alleviate the "catch and release" issue.