

AUTO THEFT IN CANADA – A CALL TO ACTION

Auto theft is a serious and violent offence that threatens the physical and financial security of our communities. On average, auto theft causes the deaths of 40 Canadians and seriously injures 65 others each year, and takes \$1.2 billion out of Canadians' coffers. Additionally, it is estimated that organized crime rings export about 30,000 high-end stolen vehicles from major Canadian ports each year.

For these reasons, and on behalf of its member companies, Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) is taking action against auto theft in Canada. And we need your support.

IBC has been successfully advocating the implementation of Bill C-343. This private member's bill treats auto theft as a serious and separate offence in the Criminal Code, and stipulates mandatory minimum jail sentences for repeat offenders. Under C-343, the minimum sentence for third-time offenders would be two years in jail, and a tough financial penalty. The bill has passed second reading and is now before the Standing Committee on Justice, with a final vote expected to take place this fall.

In the interest of the safety of the Canadian public, Oxford Mutual Insurance Company and IBC encourages you to call or write to the federal MP in your riding, asking him or her to support Bill C-343 and to encourage the government to address the export of stolen vehicles at Canada's ports. Your support for Bill C-343 will help save lives and will bring about adequate punishment for auto thieves and put these criminals where they belong – behind bars.

On behalf of Oxford Mutual Insurance Company and IBC, I urge you to support Bill C-343 and the ports initiative and be a key participant in the fight to reduce organized auto theft in Canada.