

## CRIMINAL LAW TALKING POINTS – FOLA 2020

### BACKGROUND

On September 19, 2019, [Bill C-75](#), **An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts**, came into force. The resulting amendments to the Criminal Code have altered the landscape for legal advocates in the area of criminal law. Among other changes, the default maximum penalty for summary conviction offences has been raised from six months' imprisonment to two years less a day. An overview of Bill C-75 can be found [here](#).

### FOLA'S POSITION

FOLA believes that access to justice in the criminal sphere includes access to both procedural fairness and a strong presumption of innocence and that more needs to be done to modernize the system and allow for alternative methods of discovering witnesses and minimizing the adversarial process in certain types of cases,

FOLA's submission on Bill C-75 can be found [here](#).

### OTHER KEY POINTS

While the provincial government continues to amend legislation in order to comply with changes due to C-75, FOLA continues to press the Ontario government on the following key issues:

- Implementation of bail provisions with police vis-à-vis C-75;
- Use of video tech to avoid reduce transportation of prisoners;
- Ongoing issues around overcrowding in Ontario jails;
- Courthouse & other facility issues;
- Telephone availability for inmates;
- Mandated treatment sentencing options;
- Immigration: permanent residents being deported and the impact of federal laws on Ontarians;
- Outstanding fines – where do they go?

### KEY POINT TO LEAVE ON

As members of FOLA and our Law Association Members, we want to work with you to help with any policy initiatives impacting justice.