

FORTIFIED BUILDING ACT

The Department of Justice and Public Safety is proposing *the Fortified Building Act* as an additional tool to prevent and disrupt crime in our community and to support emergency responders in their ability to safely provide their services in Island communities. This type of legislation has been adopted in other Canadian jurisdictions to address the challenges that are created when property owners or occupants fortify buildings in a manner that hinders safe emergency responder and law enforcement access in emergencies and that makes it difficult for people to escape the building in an emergency. Other jurisdictions have also noted that fortified buildings can be used by individuals involved in crime and other activities that disrupt the peace and safety of neighbourhoods.

The proposed legislation sets out the powers and responsibilities of inspectors and the Director in identifying, inspecting and potentially closing fortified buildings. It also provides for the issuance of removal and closure orders for buildings that are designated as a threat to public safety, and the appeal of those orders. A consequential amendment is proposed for the *Registry Act* to facilitate the registration of a removal or closure order made under the *Fortified Building Act*.

We encourage you to provide comments on this Bill by February 15, 2024 so that Government has an opportunity to consider all feedback prior to finalizing the Bill for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island. You can contact us to provide your comments or questions about this document by mail or e-mail to:

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This consultation is a public process. The Department of Justice and Public Safety assumes that comments received on this Consultation Report are not confidential unless specifically indicated. The Department may quote from or refer to your comments in whole or in part. The Department may attribute comments provided by organizations. If you would like your comments to be treated confidentially, please request confidentiality in your response or submit your comments anonymously.

Any personal information received by the Department through this consultation process is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Legislative Specialist by means of the contact information indicated above.