



Correctional Service
Canada

Service correctionnel
Canada

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SAFETY, RESPECT
AND DIGNITY
FOR ALL

LA SÉCURITÉ,
LA DIGNITÉ
ET LE RESPECT
POUR TOUS

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES

*A PARTNERSHIP
APPROACH TO PUBLIC
SAFETY*

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Canada



CSC Mission

- *The Correctional Service of Canada, as part of the criminal justice system and respecting the rule of law, contributes to the protection of society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure and human control.*



What does this mean for Correctional Service Canada?

- *As a federal government department, we have the responsibility to carry out sentences of two years or more.*
- *Sentences of less than two years are the responsibility of the provinces (as well as – probation, young offenders).*

- **CSC operates 57 penitentiaries for those offenders serving two years and more (up to life sentences)**

- **CSC is also responsible for the supervision of offenders upon their release from the penitentiary either:**
 - **On a discretionary release (parole) granted by the Parole Board or;**
 - **On a conditional release as legislated in law (Statutory Release or Long Term Supervision Order)**
 - **As such CSC also operates 16 Community Correctional Centres and 84 Parole Offices and sub-offices**



Statutory Release

- Statutory Release cases have not convinced a decision maker that the offender may be released into the community, however they are being released by law according to the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*.
- Statutory release entitles the offender to be released upon serving 2/3 of his/her sentence. At this point, they will be supervised within the community.

Rationale: Safer to release offenders into the community on a gradual basis under supervision rather than releasing them at the very end of their sentence where there is no jurisdiction to monitor their behaviour or assist them with their reintegration.



What do we do?

- With very few exceptions, all offenders released from penitentiaries are assigned to a Parole Officer who is responsible for the overall management of their case and ensuring that proper assistance and controls are in place to safely reintegrate the offender into the community.
- Exception: offender who have reached Warrant Expiry Date – we no longer have jurisdiction to supervise these individuals.



Supervision

- Supervision is maintained until the offender's sentence is completed – WED (Warrant Expiry Date)
- Accomplished through regular face-to-face contact in both the office and in the community as well as establishing a network of collateral contacts within the community (ie. Service providers, family, friends, employers, police, etc)
- Monitor the offender's adherence to conditions attached to their release and their progress in addressing the goals established in the community reintegration plan.



Changed Offender Profile

- In 1994, CSC implemented a national offender intake assessment process, which systematically gathers information and ensures in-depth assessment of all offenders is conducted as they enter the federal correctional system.
- Consequently, we know that the federal population has changed over the past 10 years.
- Increase in offenders with violent backgrounds, mental health needs and gang/organized crime affiliations
- This poses challenges for the custodial portion of the sentence but even more challenges for those tasked with supervising offenders within the community



Impact

- More offenders are being released on Statutory Release
- There has been a steady increase in the number of offenders being released on Statutory Release with **RESIDENCY CONDITIONS**



What does this mean for Community Corrections?

- Strain on residential capacity within the community
- Residential beds that were being used for released offenders on discretionary releases are now being filled by offenders on statutory release with residency
- In 2009/10, in the Central Ontario District, about a third of all offenders released on statutory release had a residency condition representing a steady increase over the past several years.



Alternatives Required

- CCRA s. 133 states that the PBC may impose a residency condition on an offender released on Statutory Release s. 133 (4.1) in order to facilitate successful reintegration, releasing authority may, as a condition of statutory release, require that the offender reside in a community-based residential facility or in a psychiatric facility, where the releasing authority is satisfied that, in the absence of such a condition, the offender will present an undue risk to society by committing an offence listed in schedule I before the expiration of the offender's sentence.



Alternatives Required continued...

- PBC must be satisfied that cases being released on Statutory Release have an adequate supervision strategy prepared to ensure that the risk to commit a violent offence is minimized.
- As a result, we have to ensure that a variety of options are available to ensure strict supervision of cases representing a higher risk for re-offence.
- Central Ontario District has introduced a number of initiatives over the years to ensure enhanced supervision.



Team Supervision Unit

- Is an intensive supervision unit that manages higher risk offenders.
- Parole Officers work in teams of 2 to monitor and assist the offender with their reintegration
- Frequency of contact is set at a minimum of twice per week
- Curfews are imposed and weekly unannounced curfew checks are completed



Enhanced Supervision

- **ELECTRONIC MONITORING**

Pilot of EM - used to enhance supervision of higher risk offenders August 2008 – August 2011

- **URINALYSIS**

For those with abstain conditions

- **POLICE REPORTING**

- **TREATMENT PROGRAMS**



Additional Alternatives Required

- Despite various supervision programs in place, number of offenders released with a residency condition continues to grow
- We needed to expand our options to ensure adequate monitoring of offenders and assure the PBC that the offender's risk to re-offend could be managed.
- CSC recognizes that we cannot manage offenders on our own and we need the support of our community agencies and partners
- CSC extended a partnership with **St. Leonard's Society of Toronto** to open a day reporting centre to provide additional assistance and monitoring to those offenders representing an increased risk while under supervision.