

A blue-tinted photograph of a prison corridor. On the left, a high wall of vertical slats is topped with multiple layers of barbed wire. In the center-right, a tall, multi-story watchtower with a balcony and a roof-mounted light fixture stands prominently. The ground is a wide, paved walkway. In the foreground, a person in dark clothing and a cap walks away from the camera, carrying a white bucket. Further down the path, several other people are visible, some walking away and others standing. The overall atmosphere is stark and institutional.

ANNEX B: SUMMARY OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS

## ANNEX B: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. I recommend that the Correctional Service demonstrate compliance with its legal obligation to provide every inmate with essential health care according to professionally accepted standards, and that all institutional health care sites be accredited within one year.

2. I recommend that the Correctional Service demonstrate compliance with its legal obligation to provide every inmate with essential mental health care and reasonable access to non-essential mental health care according to professionally accepted standards, and that all mental health care units and regional treatment centres be accredited within one year.

3. I again recommend that the Correctional Service take immediate steps to sensitize and train all front-line staff to appropriately identify disruptive mental health behaviour and respond accordingly.

4. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately implement a prison-based needle exchange to ensure that inmates and society at large are best protected from the spread of infectious diseases.

5. I recommend that, within one year, the Correctional Service:

- significantly increase all women offenders' access to meaningful employment and employability programming;
- continue to significantly increase community accommodations and support services for women offenders in underserved areas;
- review the daily operations and staffing of the women's secure units with a view to eliminating "deadtime" and to significantly increasing timely access to treatment, spiritual, academic and work programs;
- significantly increase the number of women offenders appearing before the National Parole Board at their earliest eligibility dates;
- build capacity for and increase use of section 84 and section 81 agreements with Aboriginal communities;
- significantly improve access to culturally sensitive programming and services for Aboriginal women who are currently imprisoned in the Atlantic, Quebec and Ontario regions;
- review use of force incidents at women's facilities to ensure consistent compliance with policy;
- establish firm targets ensuring all front-line staff receive refresher training in women-centered approaches in accordance with the recommendation of the Canadian Human Rights Commission; and,

- provide women-centered training to all community parole officers working with women offenders.

6. I recommend that in the next year the Correctional Service:

- implement a security classification process that ends the over-classification of Aboriginal offenders;
- increase timely access to programs and services that will significantly reduce time spent in medium and maximum security institutions;
- significantly increase the number of Aboriginal offenders housed at minimum security institutions;
- significantly increase the use of unescorted temporary absences and work releases;
- significantly increase the number of Aboriginal offenders appearing before the National Parole Board at their earliest eligibility dates; and,
- build capacity for and increase use of section 84 and section 81 agreements with Aboriginal communities.

7. I recommend that the Correctional Service significantly improve (above the required employment equity level) the overall rate of its Aboriginal workforce *at all levels* in institutions where a majority of offenders are of Aboriginal ancestry.

8. I recommend that the Correctional Service establish a timely approval process by its Executive Committee for the development of action plans in response to investigative reports into incidents of inmate deaths or major injuries. In no case should this process exceed six months from the date of the incident.

9. I recommend that the Correctional Service collect accurate information and conduct comprehensive analyses of all inmate injuries to significantly improve its ability to take appropriate action to limit inmate injuries and institutional violence and that this information be verified semi-annually as part of on-going internal audits.

10. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately comply with its legal obligations and establish "a procedure for fairly and expeditiously resolving all offenders' grievances."

11. I recommend that within one year the Correctional Service provide evidence that complaint and grievance statistics are being used to identify and address areas of systemic offender concerns.

12. I recommend that in the next year the Correctional Service:

- significantly increase the number of offenders appearing before the National Parole Board at their earliest eligibility dates;
- significantly reduce waiting lists for programs included in correctional plans to maximize safe and timely reintegration;
- increase timely access to programs and services that will significantly reduce the time spent in medium and maximum security institutions; and,
- significantly increase the number of unescorted temporary absences and work releases, which have drastically declined in recent years and yet have a very high success rate.

13. I recommend that in the coming year the Correctional Service:

- proactively implement the least restrictive options and significantly reduce the overall number of placements in administrative segregation;
- significantly reduce the average length of stay in administrative segregation; and,
- significantly reduce the time to effect intra- and inter-regional transfers.

14. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately implement reasonable procedural safeguards for any offender confined in any situation that is not within the general inmate population, and ensure legal compliance with offenders' rights, entitlements and access to programs.

15. I recommend that the Minister play a leadership role by requesting that the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security examine the implementation of independent adjudication of administrative segregation decisions when it considers other amendments of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act.

16. I recommend that within one year the Correctional Service:

- develop and implement new policies, programs and services specifically to meet the unique needs of offenders aged 20 and younger that will significantly reduce their time spent in maximum and medium-security institutions, and in administrative segregation; and,
- develop and implement programs and services designed to meet the unique needs of offenders aged 20 and younger that will significantly increase their timely and safe reintegration into the community.

17. I recommend that Correctional Service respond to the special needs of elderly offenders and significantly improve key areas including accommodation, program development, palliative care, and reintegration options.

18. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately increase inmate allowances for work and program participation. I further recommend that, from this time forward, inmate allowances be indexed to the rate of inflation.

19. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately:

- amend its policy requiring that inmates choose between either visiting a dying member of their immediate family or other persons with whom inmates have a close personal relationship or attending their funeral; and,
- expedite the consideration of requests for compassionate temporary absences, and allow for a visit to the gravesite or with family members should circumstances make attendance at the funeral impossible.

20. I recommend that the Correctional Service immediately subject all federally-sentenced offenders to an individualized security classification process as required by law and regulations.

21. I recommend that the Correctional Service:

- establish a reasonable ratio of computers to inmates in designated areas outside cells available for inmate use; and, allow inmates to have computers for in-cell use.
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