



Working Together

Citizens' Advisory Committees

to the Correctional Service of Canada

Mission of the Citizens' Advisory Committees

Citizens' Advisory Committees, through voluntary participation in the Canadian federal correctional process, contribute to the protection of society by actively interacting with staff of the Correctional Service of Canada, the public and offenders, providing impartial advice and recommendations, thereby contributing to the quality of the correctional process.



Citizens' Advisory Committees

As part of the criminal justice system, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is the federal agency responsible for the administration of the sentences, the management of correctional facilities and the supervision of offenders serving sentences of two or more years. Because all offenders come from the community, and most will eventually return there, their successful reintegration requires community acceptance and support. This has resulted in an organized means of citizens to become involved in the correctional system:

Citizens' Advisory Committees (CACs).

Communities and their citizens have an important role to play in the Canadian criminal justice system.



Since their initial inception in 1965, and subsequent recognition through the Parliamentary Sub-Committee Report on Federal Penitentiaries (1977), these committees have helped to inform communities about the correctional process and to contribute to the overall development of correctional facilities and programs. There are close to 600 citizens who are now active in the Citizens' Advisory Committee program, with more than 90 CACs across Canada. Currently, almost all of the federal institutions and District Parole Offices have a Citizen Advisory Committee.

Citizens' Advisory Committees' values

- We believe that the protection of society must be the paramount consideration in the corrections process.
- We believe that offenders have the potential to live as law-abiding citizens.
- We believe that the community has a responsibility to facilitate the reintegration of the offender into society.
- We believe that the effective operation of all Citizens' Advisory Committees throughout Canada is essential in managing the Correctional Service of Canada with openness and integrity.
- We respect the dignity of individuals, the rights of all members of society, and the potential for human growth and development.
- We believe in the right of all citizens to become informed participants in the correctional process.

Citizens' Advisory Committees' goals

- To promote public knowledge and understanding of corrections through communication among offenders, CSC staff and the public;
- To contribute to the overall development of correctional facilities and programs;
- To foster public participation in the correctional process;
- To participate in developing community resources designed to support correctional programs;
- To act as impartial observers; and
- To positively contribute in the development and implementation of new policies and programs through meaningful consultation.



Community Participation

With a keen interest in positively contributing to the correctional process, Citizens' Advisory Committees provide a means for the community to represent and express itself in the core work of the Correctional Service of Canada.

Through the voluntary participation in the Canadian correctional process, which is guided by their Mission and values, Citizens' Advisory Committees provide:

Advice - CACs provide impartial advice to CSC managers on the operation for correctional facilities and the impact of these facilities on surrounding communities. CAC members fulfill this role by regularly visiting correctional facilities, and meeting regularly with offenders, local union representatives, and with local CSC management and employees. CACs also advise and assist local, regional and national managers of CSC to help with the overall development of correctional facilities and programs, and of the impact of this development on the community.

Impartial Observers - CAC members act as impartial observers of the day-to-day operations of CSC. They help CSC evaluate and monitor the provision of adequate care, supervision and programs for offenders, in accordance with stated values, legislation, and approved regulations and procedures such as CSC's Mission and the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*

(CCRA). CACs also act as impartial observers during institutional crises. This helps demonstrate CSC's commitment to openness, integrity and accountability.

Liaison - As a link between communities and CSC, CACs educate the public about CSC, address public concerns and build support for the correctional process. They also give CSC management, both parole and institutional, a community perspective on institutional, operational and policy decisions. CACs educate the local community on correctional objectives and programs; develop and implement means to enhance communication with the local community; and generally contribute and encourage public participation in the correctional process.

Membership

CACs reflect, as much as possible, the ethnic, gender, socio-economic and cultural diversity of the community and endeavour to be the "public presence" in Corrections.

CAC members are local citizens who volunteer their time with the goal of making a difference in the criminal justice system.

CAC members are independent from the management of CSC and are not paid for their services.

CAC members are appointed for a minimum two year period, which may be renewed.

Following the submission of an application, potential CAC members will be subject to an orientation and recommendation process prior to being appointed.

CACs role as a community partner is administered through the Correctional Service of Canada, which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Mission of the Correctional Service of Canada

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 humane control.



Interested?

Correctional facilities and programs are part of the community. Through ongoing dialogue and consultation with the community, Citizens' Advisory Committees play a vital role in assisting the Correctional Service of Canada become more responsive to all Canadians.

If you would like to become involved or would like more information about Citizens' Advisory Committees, please contact your nearest office/facility of the Correctional Service of Canada. To learn more about Canada's federal penitentiaries for men, institutions for women, community correctional centres for offenders on conditional release, and parole offices visit the following Internet site at www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/facilit/facilit_e.shtml

For updated information about federal corrections in Canada, visit CSC's Internet site at www.csc-scc.gc.ca

For further information on the CAC program, including an application form, visit the following Internet site at www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/partenaire/partne04_e.shtml or use the contacts that are provided.

Correctional Service of Canada

National Headquarters

340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P9
Phone: (613) 947-0954
Fax: (613) 947-7320

Regional Headquarters Offices

For a Canada-wide view of corrections, through CSC's five regions, visit the following Internet site at www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/region/regions_e.shtml

RHQ - Atlantic
1045 Main Street
2nd Floor
Moncton, New Brunswick
E1C 1H1
Phone: (506) 851-6313
Fax: (506) 851-2418

RHQ - Quebec
3 Place Laval
2nd Floor
Chomedey, City of Laval,
Quebec
H7N 1A2
Phone: (450) 967-3333
Fax: (450) 967-3326

RHQ - Ontario
440 King Street West
P.O. Box 1174
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 4Y8
Phone: (613) 545-8211
Fax: (613) 545-8684

RHQ - Prairies
2313 Hanselman Place
P.O. Box 9223
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7K 3X5
Phone: (306) 975-4850
Fax: (306) 975-4435

RHQ - Pacific
32560 Simon Avenue
2nd Floor
P.O. Box 4500
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V2T 5L7
Phone: (604) 870-2501
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