Citizens' Advisory Committees

Working Together

to the Correctional Service of Canada

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

s part of the criminal justice system, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is the **L** 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 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.

- 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.

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

T ith 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

Correctional Service Service correctionnel Canada

(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.

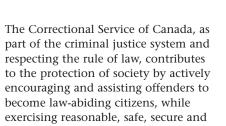
CAC members are independent from the management of CSC and are not paid for their services.

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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.



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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/ partenair/partne04 e.shtml or use the contacts that are provided.

Canada

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 K7Ľ 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 Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 5L7 Phone: (604) 870-2501 Fax: (604) 870-2430