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■ The Review of Inmate Services and Conditions of Custody was truly a collaborative work that involved the support, advice and observations of hundreds of people. The genuine interest and concern that so many showed for perhaps the least valued of our citizens bodes well for inmates and for correctional services.

I would like, first, to acknowledge the help we received from community agencies and individuals who are stakeholders in the delivery of correctional services. This list of stakeholders includes the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, John Howard Society, Elizabeth Fry Society, Métis Nations, elders, chaplains and medical professionals.

The inmates themselves deserve special mention. Our frequent discussions with inmate committees at all four correctional centres were invariably productive. These inmates showed a thoughtful desire for meaningful improvement and a good understanding of the purposes of incarceration.

The level of co-operation and support we received from all correctional staff members speaks to their dedication to their work. John Whyte, Deputy Minister of Justice, and Don Head, Assistant Deputy Minister of Corrections and Public Safety, supported this work from the beginning and encouraged the participation of their staff. Neil Yeates, Deputy Minister of Corrections and Public Safety, came on board late in the review and added his support.

I would especially like to acknowledge the efforts and patience of Corrections' central office staff, centre directors and deputy directors, and chief shop stewards who were always ready to help and provide us with constructive feedback on our findings. Terry Youngman, Senior Standards and Inspections Officer, and his temporary replacement, Heather Murray,

deserve special mention for their work as principal liaisons with my office during the course of the review.

All of the staff of the Office of the Provincial Ombudsman contributed to the review, whether by offering support, constructive comment or identifying issues arising through ongoing investigations. All were required, from time to time, to accept and accommodate the demands that this work placed on others in the office. I appreciate their doing so.

Certain members of the staff warrant special mention. Susan Krznar undertook the investigation and first draft of a major section of the review. Markian Lozowchuk took the photographs in the report and patiently did the layout amid ongoing changes. Kjersten Hordern edited the text and improved it greatly. While only temporary employees of the office, all three showed sincere dedication to the work.

Gordon Mayer, Murray Knoll, Joni Sereda and Laura Pun provided wise counsel on many occasions from the beginning of the work and have spent countless hours reviewing and discussing the text. Their work helped ensure the consistent direction of the review.

Roy Hodsman was primarily responsible for the research, investigation, consultation, analysis and reporting in this work. His interest in and dedication to the work remained throughout and I think that his intelligence, integrity and common sense are evident in the text of the report.

Finally, I am grateful to the thousands of inmates who have, over the past twenty-nine years, brought thousands of complaints to my office. Their desire for fair treatment has, I think, expedited the evolution of custodial conditions and sometimes provided a positive challenge to corrections philosophy.