

# BACKGROUND

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■ Before embarking on the report, the reader may find it helpful if we provide a brief overview of the Corrections Division of the Department of Corrections and Public Safety and the correctional facilities subject of this report.

The Corrections Division offers a range of programs for varying levels of offender care, control and supervision. These programs are delivered through three operational systems: the Community Operations Branch, Community Facilities Branch and the Institutional Operations Branch. The Community Operations Branch assists the court by providing essential information for interim release or sentencing purposes (bail and pre-sentence reports), and promotes the responsible behaviour of offenders by providing a meaningful and socially productive level of control in the community. The Community Facilities Branch provides community residential services for low-security offenders who require assistance to function in the community. The Institutional Operations Branch is responsible for the correctional institutions that are the focus of this review.

The Institutional Operations Branch administers programs for the care and custody of inmates sentenced to terms of imprisonment of less than two years and inmates who have been remanded into custody by the courts prior to trial. The Branch administers thirteen correctional facilities as follows:

- + community correctional centres located in North Battleford and Buffalo Narrows;
- + correctional camps located at Besnard Lake and Waden Bay;
- + an urban camp in Saskatoon;
- + the St. Louis Impaired Driver Treatment Program; and
- + four provincial correctional centres located in Regina, Prince Albert (one centre for men and one for women) and Saskatoon.

Each of the provincial correctional centres in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert—the focus of this review—is headed by a Director who is assisted by two or three Deputy Directors. The Deputy Directors are each assigned primary responsibility for programs, operations, administration or security. They are in turn assisted by Assistant Deputy Directors and Team Leaders, who manage units comprising on average twenty inmates. The majority of the staff at each centre are Corrections Workers who are responsible for the day-to-day care and custody of the inmates in accordance with policy, directives and local rules developed by Head Office, the Directors and Deputy Directors. Their work is complemented by many others including shop supervisors, admitting staff, administrative support staff, medical staff, maintenance staff, food services staff, counsellors, abuse intervention instructors, security staff, and in Saskatoon, a psychologist. Each centre also has service contracts with elders, doctors, dentists, chiropractors and psychiatrists.