



Conclusion

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■ In the face of increasing pressures on available bed space, out-of-date buildings, and finite resources, we believe Corrections is doing a credible job. On the whole, Corrections employees are genuinely interested in meeting their responsibilities to help inmates address their criminogenic and other needs. To be sure, though, there is room for improvement.

The safety of Saskatchewan communities depends in no small part on Corrections' ability to provide appropriate conditions of custody and effective rehabilitative services. How well inmates will function in the community will depend in some part on their experience in jail.

Ideally, we want to ensure that no opportunity to help inmates become law-abiding citizens is missed. Contrary to what some may believe, research has shown that a negative experience in jail can actually increase the chances of an inmate reoffending. Consequently, Saskatchewan's citizens have a vested interest in the success or failure of Corrections' efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates.

The review had three objectives that were described in the terms of reference:

- + To establish a collaborative relationship with all major stakeholders to ensure that the review is accepted as meaningful by those interested in the issues and to encourage a process whereby, in the future, substantive issues are addressed in a timely and non-adversarial manner between the Ombudsman and Corrections with the common objective of providing professional and fair treatment for all inmates.
- + To determine the source of recurring and substantive issues that have been the focus of numerous ombudsman investigations with a view to recommending changes to legislation, policy and practice as they pertain to the treatment of inmates to ensure that inmates are treated with the respect and dignity to which they are entitled.
- + To develop a comprehensive set of principles that will guide decision-makers.

We believe we have achieved all three objectives. In fact, the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with Corrections on the many issues that have been addressed in this report has proven to be invaluable in helping create an atmosphere of understanding and respect for each other's responsibilities and limitations.