



Correctional Service Canada Service correctionnel Canada

Commissioner
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Commissaire

SEP 07 2018

Your file Votre référence
AR 28664
Our file Notre référence
1410-2-2013-46

Mr. Philip Bryden, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Solicitor General
Justice and Solicitor General
224 Bowker Building
9833 – 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2E8

**Re: Verdict at the Public Fatality Inquiry into the Death of Jesse Ryan
 MCADAM at Edmonton Institution on July 16, 2013**

Dear Mr. Bryden:

Thank you for your letter dated April 25, 2018, which was forwarded to CSC, for response, by Malcolm Brown, Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada. I am pleased to provide you with CSC's response to the Honourable Judge M.C. Doyle's report on the Inquiry into the death of Jesse Ryan MCADAM at Edmonton Institution on July 16, 2013. While CSC recognizes that the recommendations are not binding on us as a federal organization, we take them very seriously and provide you with the responses below.

Recommendation 2 relates to administrative segregation. As you may be aware, in December 2017 and January 2018 decisions were rendered in the legal challenges initiated by the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, the John Howard Society of Canada, and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. While the courts found that changes are required to administrative segregation, the courts' decisions have not yet come into effect and are currently under appeal. Nonetheless, CSC continues to integrate evolving best practices into its policies, including those on administrative segregation.

Recommendation no. 1:

Creation of an inmate advocacy agency:

The Office of the Correctional Investigator (OCI) is mandated by Part III of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA) to act as an advocacy agent for inmates. In the role of an Ombudsman, the primary function of the OCI is to investigate

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and bring resolution to individual offender complaints. The OCI also has a responsibility to review and make recommendations on CSC's policies and procedures associated with the areas of individual complaints, to ensure that systemic areas of concern are identified and appropriately addressed.

The OCI, as the ombudsman for federally sentenced offenders, serves Canadians and contributes to safe, lawful and humane corrections. They do so through independent oversight of CSC and by providing accessible, impartial and timely investigation of individual and systemic concerns.

In addition to the services available to offenders through the OCI, CSC facilities offer additional mechanisms to meet offenders' needs, including inmate committees and Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs).

The role of inmate committees is "to establish a means for inmates to provide input regarding institutional operations" as per Commissioner's Directive (CD) 083, *Inmate Committees*. Inmate committees make recommendations to the Institutional Head on decisions affecting the inmate population and submit proposals for special projects or activities.

CACs offer a public presence in corrections, as per CD 023, *Citizen Advisory Committees* and article 7 of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Regulations (CCRR)*. Their purpose is to foster positive relationships with the community and to enhance CSC's effectiveness by engaging citizens in matters related to its operations. CACs are made up of community volunteers and are mandated to observe and provide feedback to CSC on its day-to-day activities and operations; provide advice to the Service about correctional operations, programs, policies and correctional plans; and liaise with CSC staff, offenders and representatives from various organizations and the community to address correctional issues.

Offenders also have access to partner agencies such as Elizabeth Fry and the John Howard Society as well as health professionals, Indigenous Elders, chaplains, and other professionals dedicated to ensuring their needs are met.

Inmates who are not satisfied with the decision of the Institutional Head and/or Regional Headquarters about placement in administrative segregation or who are not satisfied with their conditions of confinement or the treatment they receive may also submit a grievance. The grievance process is in place pursuant to sections 90-91 of the CCRA, sections 74-82 of the CCRR and CD 081, *Inmate Complaints and Grievances*. A national toll-free phone number is available for inmates to inquire about the offender complaint and grievance process.

Recommendation no. 3:

Correctional staff participate in annual, in-person training sessions that are specifically directed at inmate suicide and self-harm risk prevention:

New Correctional Officers to the Service receive formal Suicide and Self-Injury Prevention training as part of the Correctional Training Program. This course includes a 6.5-hour online session on theory and policy, and knowledge is evaluated through a formal test. Following the successful completion of the online portion, 3.5 hours of in-class training takes place. The Suicide and Self-Injury Prevention training was developed with subject matter experts in the field and is delivered by qualified trainers. It focuses on recognizing the warning signs of suicide and self-injurious behaviours, taking appropriate action and safely intervening in a suicide in progress or other self-injurious behaviours. It incorporates an in-class theory based component and skill development exercises, which are applied through scenario-based training. Following the successful completion of the course, new Correctional Officers respond to additional scenarios involving attempted suicide, suicide, and self-injurious behaviours in a simulated institutional environment.

New Correctional Officers are also required to complete a 3.5 hour in-class training session on segregation. This session is policy and procedurally based.

Additional training is given annually to all front-line staff. Correctional Officers in the field are required to complete Suicide and Self-Injury Refresher Training (SSIRT) every two years. This course helps officers identify effective actions and interventions in regards to the factors, indicators and warning signs of suicidal and self-injurious behaviours. The course consists of one hour of online learning followed by two hours of in-class training. It was developed in partnership with Subject Matter Experts and is delivered by qualified trainers.

In addition to the SSIRT, existing Correctional Officers are required to complete the Correctional Officer Continuous Development Training. This course is application based and the 2018/2019 session includes a self-injurious scenario that is delivered in a simulated institutional environment. Training for staff that work in a segregation unit include two online courses: Administrative Segregation and Administrative Segregation Review Board.

I trust the foregoing information effectively responds to the Inquiry recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed

Anne Kelly

c.c.: Honourable Judge M.C. Doyle
Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada