

Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

JAN 31 2019

Sandra Cohen-Rose
President, National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
presncwc@gmail.com

Dear Sandra Cohen-Rose:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 14, 2018, about Bill C-83, *An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act*.

Our Government is focused on ensuring that federal correctional institutions provide a safe and secure environment conducive to inmate rehabilitation, staff safety and the protection of the public.

In October 2018, we introduced Bill C-83, legislation that will strengthen our corrections system in a number of ways, including by eliminating the use of administrative segregation. Under Bill C-83, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) would create Structured Intervention Units (SIUs), which would ensure that inmates who need to be separated from the mainstream inmate population for security reasons have access to rehabilitative interventions, including programming and mental healthcare.

The new law would require that inmates be offered a minimum of four hours out of the cell daily, which is double what they receive under the current system. They would also have to be offered at least two hours daily of meaningful human contact. In addition to regular internal reviews of SIU placements, healthcare providers could intervene at any point to recommend changes in conditions or removal from the SIU. Also, the Government supports an amendment proposed by Liberal MP Pam Damoff that would add binding external oversight to the new system.

Bill C-83 was passed by the House of Commons' Public Safety Committee in December with amendments accepted from all parties. Remaining legislative steps include Third Reading debate in the House, and debate and committee study in the Senate.

Canada 

With regard to provincial correctional systems, while their management is outside the purview of the federal government, I certainly engage with my provincial counterparts about correctional matters, and I hope that the improvements we are making at the federal level will serve as a model for positive change across the country.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Kim Pate, Senator