



National Associations Active in Criminal Justice
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Press Release

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NATIONAL AGENCIES QUESTION EFFICACY OF REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

National agencies representing 200 Canadian communities and 11 denominations acknowledge the Correctional Service of Canada's Review Panel recommendations that recognize community participation in public safety.

Upon first review, contributing agencies are most concerned with proposed changes to Statutory Release and building of institutional multi-complexes. Agencies are also critical of the Review's apparent disregard for internationally recognized research that demonstrates positive impacts, both social and economic, through well-managed support and supervision programs.

Given that over 90% of prisoners will ultimately return to our communities after incarceration, contributing Associations promote gradual, supervised re-integration programs that reduce crime and victimization.

Members of the *National Associations Active in Criminal Justice* urged the Panel to invest in community-based services that are essential to improve the criminal justice system.

L'Association des Services de Réhabilitation Sociale du Québec highlighted the importance of partnership and joint responsibility among individuals, groups and social institutions to ensure community vitality.

The Canadian Associations of Elizabeth Fry Societies emphasized women-centred, humane and community-based approaches that address the systemic discrimination of criminalized women and recognize international human rights covenants.

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections encouraged the Panel to consider Restorative practices that include offenders, victims and communities in order to achieve safe reintegration for individuals and communities.

The John Howard Society of Canada stressed the role and purpose of corrections as mandated by the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and insisted that all programs be developed and carried out in accordance with evidence-based knowledge.

The Salvation Army noted that voluntary sector involvement, increased support and community supervision would more appropriately respond to community needs and enhance successful reintegration thereby increasing public safety.

St. Leonard's Society of Canada highlighted the value of gradual supervision strategies and stressed the importance of innovative institutional and community interventions that comprehensively address crime.

Given their collaborative relationship, NAACJ anticipates further involvement with CSC to examine the Panel's recommendations more closely.

The Association understands that community realities and robust research are integral to effective corrections and long-term safety. "Anything less," noted The John Howard Society of Canada "puts the public at risk and politicizes correctional policy." ☛