



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

*Profile of*

# BC Corrections



[bit.ly/3QIWAtb](https://bit.ly/3QIWAtb)

# By The Numbers

BC Corrections statistics<sup>1</sup>

**2,500 employees in 10 correctional centres and 52 community corrections offices, supervising 1,860 individuals in custody and 17,100 in BC communities.**

**More than 60% of BC Corrections clients are diagnosed with mental health or addictions challenges.**

**Indigenous peoples make up 37% of the individuals we help in custody and 29% in the community.**

**Women make up 6% of the custody population and 15% of the people under community supervision. 47% of women in custody identify as Indigenous and 37% of women in the community corrections client population identify as Indigenous.**

**For the 9,600 admissions into custody each year, the average length of stay is 69 days for sentenced individuals and 56 days for those awaiting trial. In the community, the average length of supervision for sentenced individuals is 339 days.**

<sup>1</sup> Statistics for 2024

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# Leadership

Meet the senior management team at BC Corrections

**Erin Gunnarson**

*Assistant Deputy Minister*

**Amy Lapsley**

*Provincial Director  
Strategic Operations*

**Bill Small**

*Provincial Director  
Community Corrections*

**Doug Forsdick**

*Provincial Director  
Adult Custody*

**Dave Friesen**

*Provincial Director  
Capital Division*

**Myrna Luknowsky**

*Deputy Provincial Director  
Adult Custody*

**Elliot Smith**

*Deputy Provincial Director  
Adult Custody*

**Steve DiCastrì**

*Deputy Provincial Director  
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PROFILE OF BC CORRECTIONS | 2025

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# Meet the Assistant Deputy Minister

Erin Gunnarson is Assistant Deputy Minister for BC Corrections



She is responsible for the provision of safe and secure custody of individuals awaiting trial and for those serving sentences less than two years in 10 correctional centres across BC. She is also accountable for the operation of 52 community corrections offices that supervise individuals serving community sentences such as bail, probation or conditional sentence orders.

Colleagues and friends,

We created this resource to share who we are at BC Corrections, what we do, and why we do it.

At the heart of everything we do is the belief that people can change and by supporting adults under our supervision we protect communities.

Our teams in correctional centres, community corrections offices and at headquarters are deeply driven to care for and help others. Ask them why they work in corrections and they will answer, “I want to make a difference in people’s lives.”

To give people the best chance at success, we are on a steady path to shifting our practices and the ways we work with people who come in contact with BC Corrections. The individuals under our care and supervision in correctional centres and communities are increasingly complex. Many have experienced significant trauma and violence and are living with addiction and mental health needs.

*“At the heart of everything we do is the belief that people can change.”*

In response, we are embracing new approaches to support all staff, lead successful change, focus on complex needs and support Indigenous reconciliation.

Our commitment to improving outcomes for the individuals we work with will not waiver.

This is an inspiring time at BC Corrections, driven by compassion, new ideas and action. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about us.

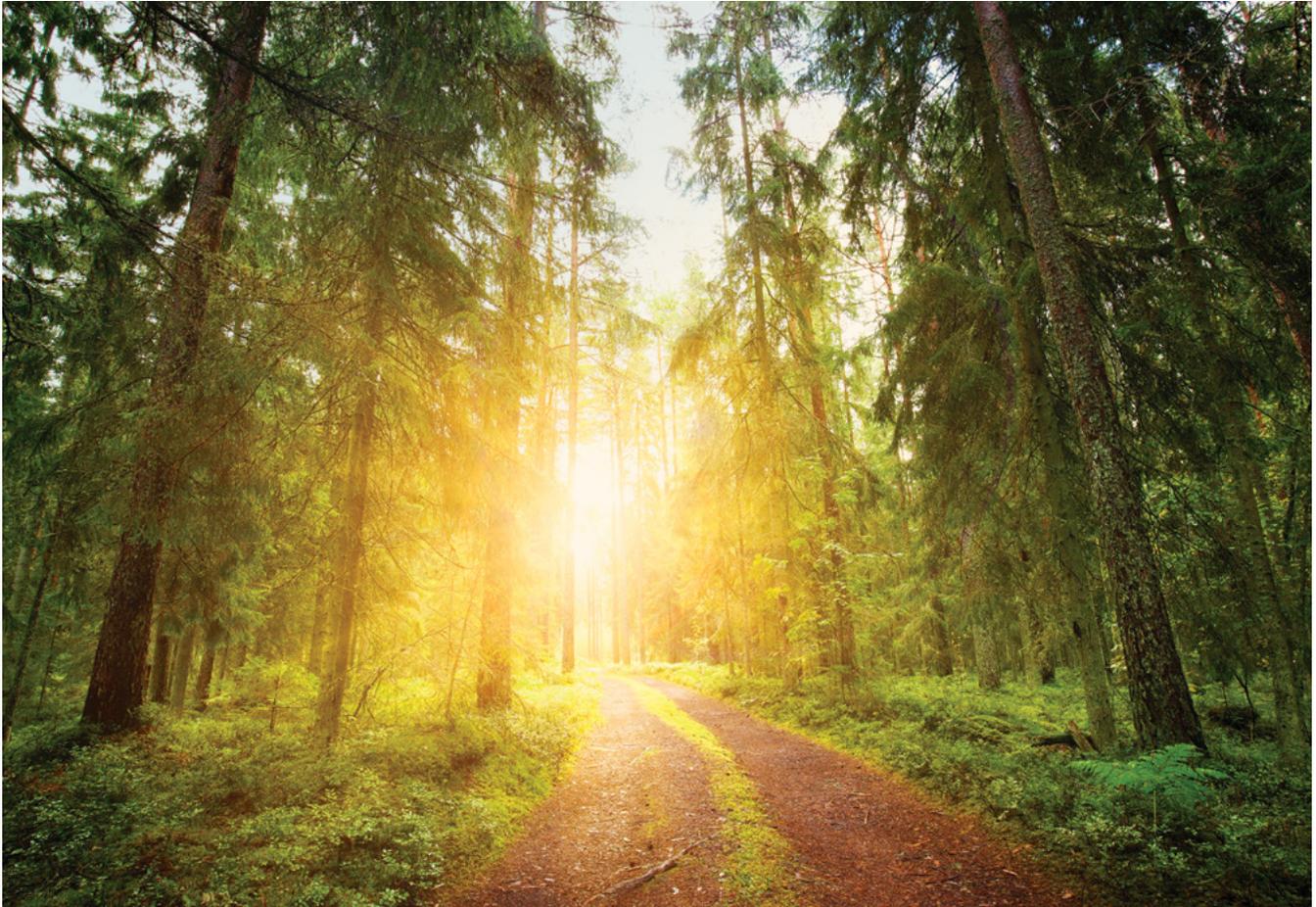
**Erin Gunnarson**

*Assistant Deputy Minister*

*BC Corrections*

# Why We Exist

Our staff want to help people get on the right path



One of the most important questions we ask BC Corrections staff is, “What is your why?”. The power of their purpose, why they choose this career and what brings them to work each day, is important. BC Corrections staff want to make a difference in people’s lives, and we are deeply committed to helping people improve their lives through changing their thinking and behaviour.

We safely support people 18 years or older who are in provincial custody or under supervision in the community and help them learn better ways of responding to the world around them. We are shifting correctional practices in BC, and the ways we supervise and work with individuals who come in contact with the justice system.

Our teams in probation offices and correctional centres help individuals gain education and work skills, access culturally appropriate services, plan for their future success and ensure court-ordered conditions are being followed for those under supervision in the community.

We also deliver programs for individuals who need support with substance use needs, violence and relationship violence and essential life skills.

# Our Strategic Vision

## BC Corrections priorities

### SUPPORT ALL STAFF

**SAFETY FIRST:** Promote a safe work environment that advances policies, procedures, technology, and facility design to keep staff healthy and safe.

**HEALTHY WORKPLACE:** Support a workplace that embraces diversity, is free of harassment, racism and discrimination, and strengthens staff resiliency through trauma-informed practices and work-life balance.

**SHARE IDEAS:** Listen to the expertise and experience of staff to inform decisions and planning.

**RETAIN & DEVELOP:** Provide tools and training to support long-term rewarding careers, recruit new talent, and grow leadership skills at all levels.

### LEAD SUCCESSFUL CHANGE

**LEAD BY EXAMPLE:** Demonstrate compassion, respect, and dignity while working with individuals to promote personal accountability.

**EVERYONE HAS A STORY:** Use trauma-informed practices to understand why people are with us and to help them meet their needs.

**EMBRACE DIVERSITY:** Recognize and respect the diversity of individuals and provide adapted programs and resources.

**CORRECTIONAL LEADERS:** Support innovation for new approaches and technologies informed by research and best practices.

### Our Priorities

### FOCUS ON COMPLEX NEEDS

**UNDERSTAND COMPLEXITY:** Understand the complex needs and behaviours of people with trauma, addictions, and mental health needs.

**INTEGRATED SUPPORT:** Collaborate with health, justice, and community partners to coordinate services.

**PLAN FOR SUCCESS:** Develop case plans that address individual needs and challenges to support change and improve wellness and safety.

**FOCUS ON TRANSITIONS:** Work with partners to connect individuals with the programs and services they need as they transition to the community or when supervision ends.

### SUPPORT INDIGENOUS RECONCILIATION

**CULTURE SUPPORTS HEALING:** Support the delivery of culture-based programs that strengthen identity and support change.

**CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY:** Facilitate Indigenous people's connections to their culture and community.

**HISTORY MATTERS:** Build awareness and understanding of the lasting impacts of racism and colonization, and the need for reconciliation.

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS:** Engage with Indigenous partners and communities to guide us toward culturally supported ways to reduce re-offending and over-representation.

# Who We Are

Four divisions of dedicated teams



Our dedicated team of staff work in four divisions and use evidence-based and trauma-informed approaches to change behaviour.

- » **Strategic Operations** – Provides support to the operational divisions by ensuring the best and most effective research, technology, policies and programs are in place.
- » **Community Corrections** – Supervises individuals on bail and offers programs to individuals serving sentences in the community to support behavioural change and reduce re-offending.

- » **Adult Custody** – Operates correctional centres to provide care and safe and secure custody to incarcerated individuals awaiting trial or serving a sentence of less than two years.
- » **Capital Division** – Leads the planning and delivery of major capital facility projects and the spaces we need to do our work.

Additionally, teams within the assistant deputy minister's office support corporate administration and management of communications, privacy, workforce planning and finance.

# Our Strategic Operations Team

Ensures our technology, policies and programs are effective



This division enhances public safety by ensuring the right technology, research, programs, and policy are in place to support correctional staff in their work with people in custody and clients in the community. This team ensures BC Corrections provides culturally appropriate and trauma informed programs and services rooted in research and best practices.

Strategic Operations staff stay curious. When analyzing, creating and evaluating policy, programs and leading-edge technologies, they rely on research and evidence to guide the development of correctional practices and procedures.

## **POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

The Strategic Operations team supports the development, analysis and evaluation of BC Corrections' policies, programs and procedures. This includes drafting legislation, regulations and service delivery standards to support our work.

Policy and program analysts regularly consult with staff throughout our organization, jurisdictional partners and stakeholders to identify approaches that are fully informed and aligned with our overall strategic direction and core priorities.

## **PROGRAMS AND INTERVENTIONS**

The division also develops programs for delivery in communities and correctional centres to reduce the factors that contribute to crime and enhance public safety.

These programs include:

- » Cognitive behavioural programs that use systematic and goal-oriented teaching methods, help people improve their coping skills, learn how attitudes lead to behaviour and develop more positive ways of thinking and reacting to the world around them. Examples include intimate partner violence and treatment for sexually motivated offences for individuals in custody and the community.

- » Workshops for individuals in custody that help with employability and living skills.
- » Intervention to help individuals overcome obstacles to improve their mental health, low literacy, lack of social skills and address their addictions.
- » Educational and vocational courses to give individuals the foundation they need for a better life.

BC Corrections refines and expands these programs through continuous research and evaluation.

The Strategic Operations team is also responsible for:

- » Supporting the Integrated Transitional and Release Planning program, where operational staff work with high-risk individuals in custody to develop plans for their successful reintegration into the community after their release from custody;
- » Supporting the operational divisions in their efforts to help individuals with complex needs achieve better outcomes and improve access to services and continuity of care;
- » Ongoing professional development activities and training;
- » Guiding our work to enhance the effectiveness of programs and services for Indigenous peoples and be more responsive to their needs; and
- » Researching how we can enhance our use and awareness of trauma informed practice in all aspects of our work.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE PLAN

Over 60% of the individuals under provincial supervision in correctional centres and communities have been diagnosed with mental health or addictions challenges.

BC Corrections is creating a more seamless support system with better outcomes, improved access to services and an enhanced continuity of care for people with complex needs.

BC Corrections is partnering broadly with cross-government working groups, individuals with lived experience and community-based partners to better

understand our shared challenges and strengthen working relationships.

### TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

Many of the individuals in our care have personal and intergenerational histories of violence and trauma. Trauma informed practice reframes the perspective of “what is wrong” with an individual to “what happened” to them.

Our Trauma Informed Practice Guide team, comprised of representatives from the Strategic Operations, Community Corrections and Adult Custody divisions, focuses on the ways we can enhance our use and awareness of trauma informed practice.

Approaching our work with this awareness emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety, and creates opportunities for individuals to rebuild a sense of positive self-control and empowerment.

DIAGNOSIS	% OF COMMUNITY CLIENT POPULATION	% OF ADULT CUSTODY POPULATION
Mental health <i>or</i> substance use disorder	63%	69%
Both mental health <i>and</i> substance use disorder	31%	42%

The four principles of trauma informed practice that are being introduced into all aspects of our work are:

- » Realize the widespread impact of trauma;
- » Recognize the signs and symptoms of trauma;
- » Respond by fully integrating and collaborating; and
- » Resist re-traumatization.

## INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS AND RELATIONSHIPS

BC Corrections is deeply committed to addressing the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system, transforming our organization and healing broken relationships.

Indigenous peoples comprise nearly 6% of BC's adult population, and yet they represent 37% of the people in adult custody and 29% of people under supervision in the community.



ABOVE: INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS AND RELATIONSHIPS INCLUSIVITY LOGO

We envision a justice system that respects all cultures, responds to the needs of Indigenous peoples and their communities, and implements justice initiatives that are guided and led by Indigenous communities.

For more than a decade, we have been working to understand and truly address the many complex factors that contribute to the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the justice system, including the impacts of colonization and intergenerational trauma from residential schools because we know the first step to reconciliation is understanding our history.

This includes a commitment to ensure all BC Corrections employees receive education about the lasting impacts of colonization, intergenerational trauma, and the role of culture in healing.

This work is led by BC Corrections' Indigenous Programming and Relationships Unit and by contracted Indigenous cultural liaisons, Knowledge Keepers/Elders and other Indigenous service providers.

BC Corrections is also establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Indigenous communities to support the successful reintegration of individuals upon release from custody and while under community supervision. The first MOU was signed with the Sts'ailes Nation in 2017. Additional agreements were signed with the Tl'etinqox First Nation (2018), Tsleil-Waututh Nation (2019), Nicola Valley Justice Services Society (2021) and Williams Lake First Nation (2023).

One of the first steps toward reconciliation is understanding the truth about history. We are committed to providing staff with immersive experiences guided by the teachings and support of Elders and knowledge keepers that provide opportunities to learn about the lasting impacts of colonization and build relationships with Indigenous peoples.

## CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

Indigenous cultural liaison services are offered at all 10 BC provincial correctional centres. It is important to understand that BC Corrections relies on and defers to the guidance from Indigenous cultural liaisons and other Indigenous partners to help establish and deliver culturally safe programs and services to individuals in custody. This includes support with release planning and work to connect Indigenous individuals in custody with supportive family and community members, Gladue supports and other Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers to support reintegration into their communities upon release.

While programs vary within each correctional centre, they may include dedicated spaces for sweat lodges and spirit bathing, language classes, singing, drumming, art, growing and harvesting medicines and traditional cooking. Across the branch, we also support education campaigns such as Moosehide, Orange Shirt Day, National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and National Indigenous People's Day celebrations.



*“I have been participating in the available Indigenous activities for several months now. As inmates we deal with stress and difficulty. Activities such as smudging and medicine bag making are an opportunity to embrace our spirituality and to be in an environment of peace and respect.”*

– INDIVIDUAL AT NORTH FRASER PRETRIAL CENTRE

Elders, chaplains and spiritual advisors also deliver cultural awareness programming to individuals from other ethnicities to help foster peace and understanding.

In communities throughout the province, Indigenous Justice Program workers provide culture-based services that range from court diversion, client support and supervision, community reintegration planning and support, and co-facilitate evidence-based programs in the community that address addictions and intimate partner violence in a culturally relevant and safe way.

This enhances our programming and complements the supports and services offered by Indigenous cultural liaisons within our correctional centres.

## RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The Performance, Research and Evaluation Unit (PREv unit) uses an evidence-based approach to develop, implement and evaluate BC Corrections' programs. The PREv unit combines empirical research with tested best practices to support work happening across our organization every day. Team members use their expertise to analyze data and examine trends to inform our practices, investigate the effectiveness of programs and interventions, help evaluations, provide key performance indicators for cross-ministry initiatives, and consult and collaborate with our federal counterparts and academics.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Our operations run 24-hours a day, seven days a week and a significant amount of technology is critical to supporting our work and ensuring public safety. To support our operations, BC Corrections staff build, operate and maintain this technology in collaboration with other justice and law enforcement agencies and government ministries.

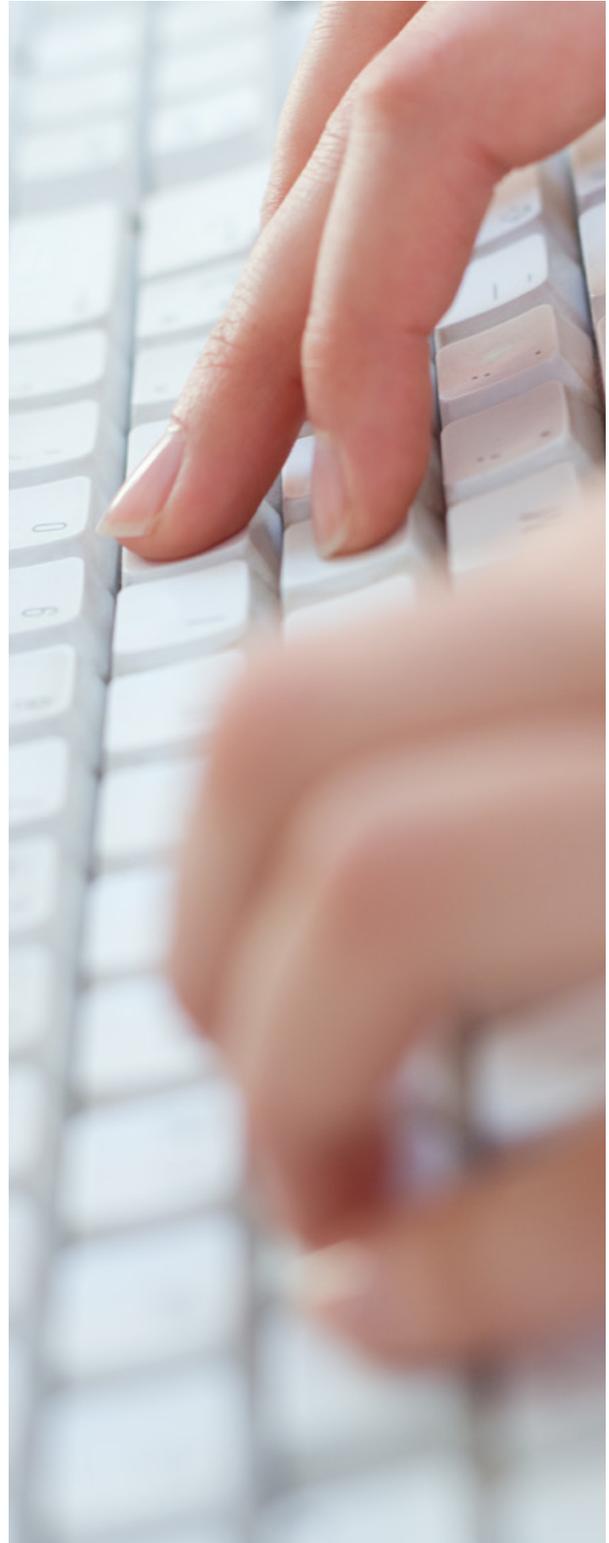
Following provincial privacy requirements, BC Corrections' technology stores critical information about the individuals we supervise, which helps us make informed decisions about the strategies we use, measure our effectiveness, protect people and assess risk. It also lets us prepare compelling reports that explain and enhance our correctional practices, security and programs.

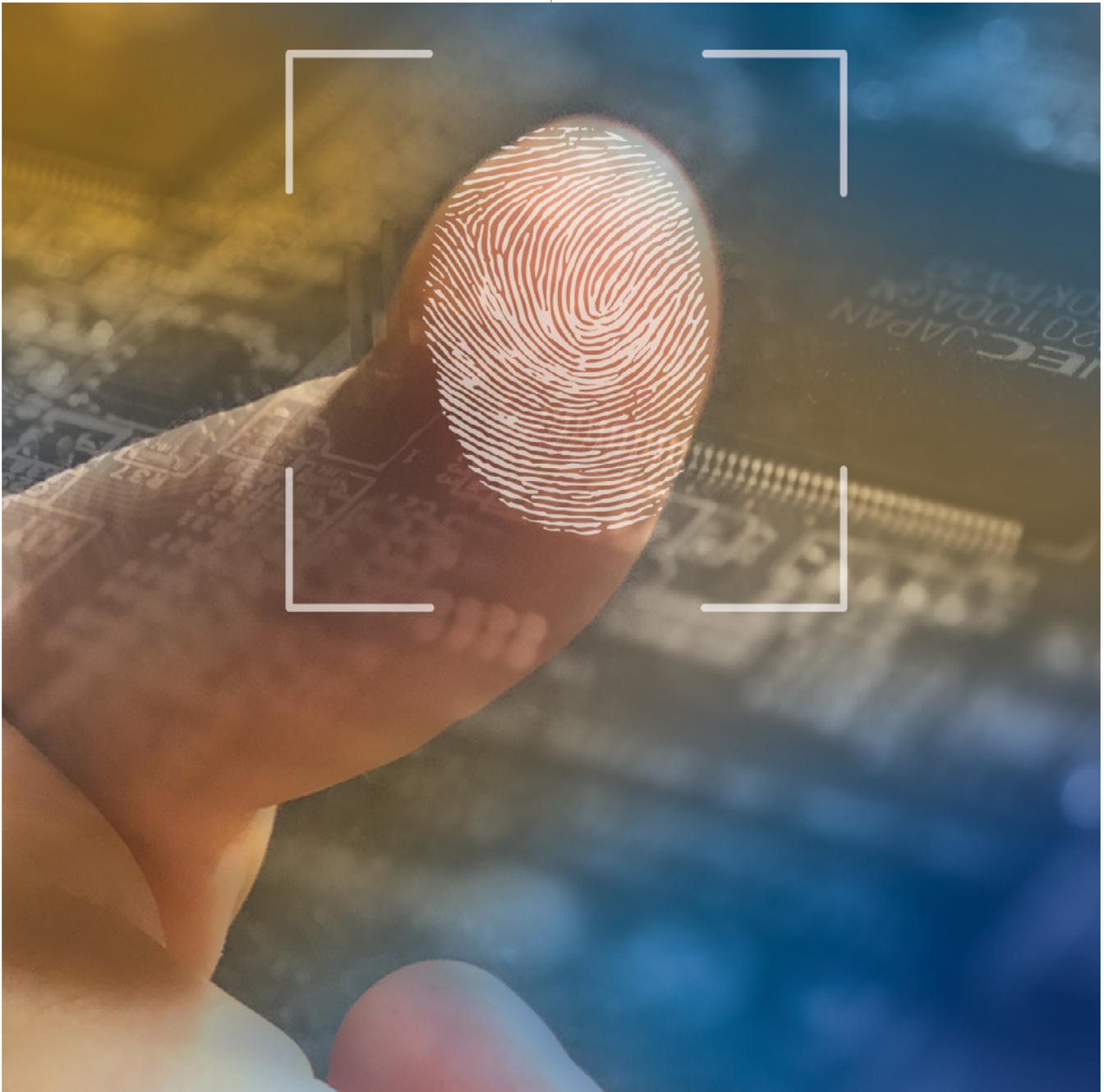
Our Operations Support Unit (OSU) manages operational information systems for thousands of justice agency personnel in three provincial ministries responsible for adult and youth corrections, sheriffs and victim services.

BC Corrections also uses electronic supervision with GPS-enabled ankle bracelets to monitor clients in the community when such supervision is ordered by the courts.

Our 24/7 Central Monitoring Unit is alerted when curfew, house arrest or 'no go' area restrictions are violated.

Long-term investment in these technologies and services helps keep victims, the public, BC Corrections staff and individuals under supervision safe by ensuring staff have the tools they need.





## OUR TECHNOLOGY

Biometrics capture an individual's fingerprints when they are admitted to a correctional centre. Individuals must verify their biometric identity any time they enter or leave a centre.

Using their biometric fingerprint as identification, individuals can use self-serve applications that let them see information about their trust accounts, key dates, court-ordered conditions, visit schedules and submit confidential requests to health care.



# Our Community Corrections Team

Supervises individuals in the community to support behavioural change



On any given day, there are 17,100 individuals under court-ordered supervision in communities throughout the province. Community Corrections staff are motivated and resilient in their efforts to lead change with their clients every day.

Probation officers at 52 Community Corrections offices across BC seek better outcomes for everyone, by ensuring individuals are following their court orders and working closely with them to connect them with supports in the community, change their behaviour and reduce reoffending.

## WHY IS SOMEONE UNDER SUPERVISION?

Individuals come under community supervision for a variety of reasons, such as being convicted of intimate partner violence (23%), sexually motivated offences (12%), both (2%) and general offences (63%) which can include personal harm offences, property offences and administrative offences. Sentences can be as long as three years; however, the average is 339 days.

In BC, the courts determine if an individual is placed under community supervision, including the conditions they must follow. This can occur through different types of court orders or alternative measures:

- » **Bail** – Requires someone accused of a criminal offence to abide by conditions while they remain in the community until they appear in court to address their charges.
- » **Probation** – Imposes a sentence or part of a sentence to be served in the community for a specified period of time, with conditions and under the supervision of a probation officer.
- » **Conditional Sentence** – A sentence with a maximum length of two years less a day, served in the community rather than in custody and supervised by a probation officer.
- » **Section 810 Recognizance** – Under section 810 of the Criminal Code of Canada, the court may order a recognizance (commonly referred to as a peace bond) for a period no more than 24 months when there is a perceived threat of harm to the safety of a community or person. These orders do not require a criminal conviction.
- » **Alternative Measure** – An alternative to court that provides an opportunity for people charged with less serious offences to be diverted out of the court system.



## HOW WE HELP PEOPLE CHANGE

Probation officers use case management strategies and interventions that have been proven through research to reduce re-offending. They provide role modelling and use communication skills, problem-solving strategies and risk assessment techniques to help individuals learn better ways of responding to the world around them.

As peace officers and officers of the court, probation officers receive extensive training focused on the legal system, report writing, case management, Indigenous justice and program facilitation to support clients under supervision in the community.

Probation staff in BC are also provided Strategic Training in Community Supervision (STICS), an internationally recognized approach to community supervision proven to significantly reduce recidivism by as much as 30%. Using STICS as part of the Strategic Community Supervision model, probation officers lead by example, build rapport with the individuals they supervise, challenge thinking errors and reinforce prosocial attitudes that influence change and reduce the risk someone might pose in the community. In 2022, the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) recognized BC Corrections with a Correctional Excellence Award for the success of Strategic Community Supervision.

Probation officers develop collaborative relationships with the people they supervise. All our case management practices are based on the evidence that they change attitudes and behaviour and reduce reoffending.

At the heart of case management in Community Corrections is a set of important principles known as risk-need-responsivity:

- » **Risk** – An individual should receive a level of service that matches their risk.
- » **Need** – An individual should receive services that address the cause of their criminal behaviour.
- » **Responsivity** – The kinds of support an individual receives should work with their motivations, strengths and learning style.

The strategies a probation officer might use include:

- » Balancing supervising and enforcing court orders with helping individuals to make positive changes in their lives;
- » Applying the appropriate level of supervision, support and programming to individuals assessed as medium to high risk to reoffend;
- » Identifying specific needs that must be addressed to reduce reoffending; and
- » Tailoring support and programming to the personal characteristics and learning styles of individuals.

Probation staff are also trained to be aware of the trauma many individuals may have experienced in their lives, and strive to provide services that are welcoming, appropriate and feel safe.



## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAMS THAT CHANGE LIVES**

Individuals serving a sentence in the community may be enrolled in one or more of BC Corrections' cognitive behavioural programs that are proven to reduce criminal behaviour.

Using systematic and goal-oriented teaching methods, probation officers deliver programs that help people improve their coping skills, learn how attitudes lead to behaviour and develop more positive ways of thinking and reacting to the world around them.

These programs help change an individual's thinking and behaviour by targeting the underlying issues that led to their criminal behaviours, such as addictions, violence, intimate relationship problems and emotional challenges.

### **LIVING WITHOUT VIOLENCE PROGRAM**

Helps individuals recognize the source of their anger, improve their communications skills and learn respectful, non-violent problem solving. This program has been shown to reduce the likelihood of recidivism for men in the community by as much as 31% one year after its completion.

## **RELATIONSHIP VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Helps individuals identify abusive behaviour, understand its harmful impact and learn how to avoid it in relationships. An evaluation of the community program (in 2020) found it reduced general reoffending by 26% with a two-year follow-up.

BC Corrections contracts with Indigenous justice programs throughout the province that deliver this program to clients in the community to enhance the cultural relevancy of our programming.

### **TREATMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS FOR SEXUALLY MOTIVATED OFFENCES**

An initial treatment program is delivered by Forensic Psychiatric Services, with a follow-up maintenance program delivered by probation officers to manage individuals who have been convicted of a sexually motivated offence and help them retain what they learn during treatment.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Uses practical strategies to reduce the negative consequences of substance abuse, ranging from safer use, to managed use to abstinence.

This program has been found to reduce recidivism among people serving a community sentence by 25% and by 30% when looking specifically at Indigenous men.

## **THINKING LEADS 2 CHANGE PROGRAM**

A program for medium and high-risk women to explore the roots of their thoughts, beliefs and emotions that led to their anti-social or criminal behaviours. Using a trauma-informed approach, participants add to their existing skills base while learning new or advanced strategies to increase their competence in areas such as conflict resolution, problem-solving, self-regulation, effective communication and boundary setting.

By understanding and learning skills to manage or overcome their challenges, individuals can make better life choices and be more positive members of their communities.

Community Corrections contracts with Indigenous justice partners across BC to enhance the cultural relevancy of our programs.

## **OUR PARTNERS**

Integrated service delivery is part of our culture. Community Corrections works with many other government agencies and public safety partners to meet the needs of the people we supervise and improve the overall effectiveness of the justice system. Some of our partnerships include:

### **» The Repeat Violent Offending Intervention Initiative (ReVOII)**

Led by BC Corrections, ReVOII brings together police, and dedicated prosecutors, probation officers, and correctional supervisors to provide early interventions in cases involving repeat violent offending and where appropriate, connect individuals with services they need to help break the cycle.

In May 2023, 12 ReVOII hubs began operating throughout the province (Nanaimo, Victoria, Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminster, Abbotsford,

Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Prince George, Williams Lake and Terrace).

ReVOII is also supported by the new Special Investigation and Targeted Enforcement Program (SITE), which provides expanded resources to strengthen targeted police investigations of repeat violent offending cases and enhance coordination between police agencies.

As of November 2023, ReVOII hubs are also supported by dedicated Community Integration Specialists from the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. Community Integration Specialists help individuals who need income assistance to apply for and access available ministry and community-based supports and services. This includes helping individuals who may have substance use or mental health diagnoses and who may be at risk of homelessness to access interim and ongoing supports and services.

Each hub supports the surrounding communities in the region and are staffed by people who live and work in the region to ensure familiarity with local issues and concerns. Through collaborative information sharing, each hub is designed to work with various agencies, local partners and other existing programs such as specialized courts, situation tables and Assertive Community Treatment teams. This includes connecting individuals who identify as Indigenous with culturally appropriate supports and resources, such as Indigenous Justice Centres.

Once an individual has been identified for the program, probation officers develop a personalized case management plan that includes interventions to address the individual's unique and complex needs. Individuals will also experience a higher intensity of community supervision, and an increase in monitoring/surveillance by police. Police and probation officers work together to provide prosecutors with detailed information to support decision making regarding charge assessments and prosecutions.

In cases when an individual is released from custody, enhanced case management and release planning tailored to their specific needs is completed by a dedicated correctional supervisor and probation officer that are located within each provincial correctional centre.

This multi-agency response ensures that individuals are continuously monitored from investigation, charge assessment, bail, trial or plea and sentencing, through to enhanced release planning and ongoing case management of community supervision orders.

- » **Vancouver's Downtown Community Court:**  
Opened in 2008 to manage individuals in downtown Vancouver with an integrated response to their legal, social and health care needs. The court is a partnership of justice, social and health agencies and the provincial court judiciary, with help from local community and business organizations. These partners work together to address the root causes of street crime, such as addiction, homelessness and poverty. They treat the whole individual, not just the person's offence. An evaluation in 2014 found this court reduced recidivism for a sub-group of individuals. Participants had almost twice the reduction of offences compared to similar individuals.
- » **The Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver:**  
Open since 2001, this court provides integrated correctional interventions, justice services and health treatment services to prevent people with addictions on the Downtown Eastside from reoffending. An evaluation done by Simon Fraser University found that drug-related recidivism was reduced by 56% over a two-year period.
- » **Vancouver Integrated Supervision Unit:**  
A specialized team of probation officers and mental health professionals who provide intensive supervision and interventions in the Downtown Eastside to prevent individuals with mental health needs from being admitted to hospitals and jails.



- » **Integrated Community Outreach Team (Victoria, Surrey, Langley and Prince George):**  
Inter-agency, coordinated teams that enhance community safety and work together to improve individuals' access to housing, financial support, life skills, and mental health and addictions services. Depending on the community, team members may include a probation officer, mental health social worker, mental health outreach worker, psychiatric nurse, income assistance worker and a police officer.
- » **High-Risk Recognizance Advisory Committee:**  
A coordinated approach by justice agencies to obtain court supervision orders for individuals when they are released from federal or provincial custody at the end of their sentence and continue to pose a high risk to reoffend.
- » **Indigenous Justice Partners:**  
Trained Indigenous justice workers partner with probation officers to provide additional community supports as well as co-facilitate addictions and intimate partner violence programs.

We also work closely with our colleagues in BC's 10 correctional centres. Incarcerated people transitioning to the community may face challenges such as having no money, job or place to live.

Through the Integrated Transitional and Release Planning program, Community Corrections and Adult Custody staff work together to connect individuals who are at high-risk for reoffending with community resources upon their release from custody.

Collectively, we work together to develop a case plan to help them live crime-free in the community. This program has been shown to reduce reoffending by 49% for women and 43% for men, when using a three-month follow-up.

Housing is a basic need and foundation to begin living as a contributing member of the community. In cases where an individual is homeless or at risk of homelessness when they leave a correctional centre, the Integrated Transitional and Release Planning and Homelessness Intervention Project team works together to find housing. The team also links individuals with mental health and addictions services and a community outreach worker who will follow up and help the individual as needed.



## CREATING RESPECTFUL FUTURES

Through a partnership with Stroh Health Care and the Ministry of Education, BC Corrections led the development of Respectful Futures, a six-module learning resource for youth 12 to 18 years old in schools and the community that reinforces a better understanding of healthy and respectful relationships.

Respectful Futures was modeled on Respectful Relationships, a BC Corrections program offered to men convicted of intimate partner violence that has been found to reduce recidivism. Many of the men who have completed Respectful Relationships have told us that they strongly believe they would not have been abusive if they had been given the tools for respectful relationships when they were younger and still in school.

Developing resources for schools and community organizations based on Respectful Relationships concepts has the potential to provide youth with the tools needed to develop healthy and respectful relationships and to improve outcomes for them and their future relationships.

The materials were developed from a gender-neutral perspective and in a form relevant to relationships of all kinds: friendships, romantic, family and community.

Get the free Respectful Futures facilitation guide for educators, a mindful handbook, six modules and video clips online at: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/1009/respectful-futures>



# Our Adult Custody Team

Operates correctional centres to provide safe & secure custody to incarcerated individuals



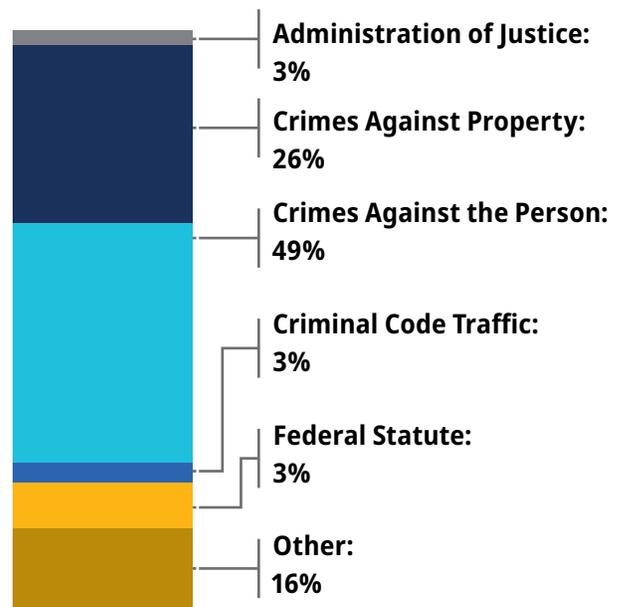
Our Adult Custody division is adopting new ways of supporting individuals in custody through innovative approaches and correctional practices founded in building relationships that support people's unique needs and set them up for success on release.

Adult Custody staff believe people generally want to succeed, but their histories are complex. We recognize that many of the people in custody have experienced significant trauma. Accepting people where they are at, and recognizing their past does not have to define them, allows us to understand their needs and support meaningful change. Breaking the cycle of reoffending creates positive life changes for these individuals and keeps communities safe.

Staff in this division operate 10 correctional centres across BC that house people who are awaiting trial or; serving a custodial sentence of less than two years. Of those individuals:

- » 75% are awaiting trial
- » 25% are sentenced

People can be sentenced to custody for a variety of reasons, such as domestic violence, sexual offences and general offences which include crimes against people, crimes against property and administrative offences.



SOURCE: GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: BC CORRECTIONS (2024). CORNET: COGNOS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM, [INSTITUTIONAL INVENTORY] EXTRACTED MARCH 2025.

The majority of Adult Custody staff are correctional officers who support individuals through mentoring (providing education and skills-based training) and supporting their daily needs. Correctional officers also facilitate the delivery of a variety of cognitive based programs. They are skilled communicators with training in conflict resolution, case management and crisis intervention.

## WHERE WE WORK

BC's 10 correctional centres located throughout the province house individuals at secure, medium, and open classification levels.

### » **Secure classification:**

Individuals whose risk assessments based on prior criminal history and/or institutional behavior deem them to require a higher level of supervision supported by structure and physical restrictions.

### » **Medium classification:**

Individuals who do not meet the definition of secure custody based on a risk assessment but require a level of supervision and structure that includes only the necessary physical restrictions to manage their movements and behaviour based on prior criminal history and/or institutional behaviour.

### » **Open Classification:**

Individuals who require only a minimum level of supervision based on prior criminal history and institutional behavior. These individuals present the lowest level of risk within the centre and are also a low risk to the safety of the public.



**ALOUETTE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN**  
 Year built: 2004. Expanded in 2008 and 2012.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 188 cells.  
 Location: Maple Ridge, BC



**FORD MOUNTAIN (XÀWS SCHÓ:LHA [HOUSE-SHHKA-LAW]) CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1981.  
 Custody type: Medium, open.  
 Capacity: 94 cells.  
 Location: Chilliwack, BC



**FRASER REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1990. Expanded in 2008.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 304 cells.  
 Location: Maple Ridge, BC



**KAMLOOPS REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1989. Expanded in 2008.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 185 cells.  
 Location: Kamloops, BC



**NANAIMO CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 2024, fully reconstructed.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 198 cells.  
 Location: Nanaimo, BC



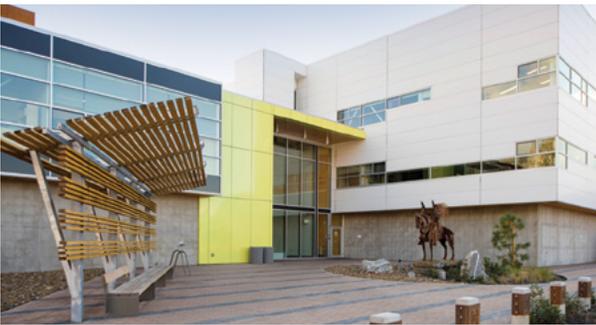
**PRINCE GEORGE REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1996, expanded in 2010.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 185 cells.  
 Location: Prince George, BC



**NORTH FRASER PRETRIAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 2001.  
 Custody type: Secure.  
 Capacity: 300 cells.  
 Location: Port Coquitlam, BC



**SURREY PRETRIAL SERVICES CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1991, expanded in 2014.  
 Custody type: Secure.  
 Capacity: 389 cells.  
 Location: Surrey, BC



**OKANAGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 2016.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium, open.  
 Capacity: 401 cells.  
 Location: Oliver, BC



**VANCOUVER ISLAND REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE**  
 Year built: 1913, extensively renovated and expanded in 1984.  
 Custody type: Secure, medium.  
 Capacity: 191 cells. Location: Victoria, BC



## **WE DO OUR WORK SAFELY**

Nothing matters more than safety — for our staff and for those in our care. We continually review and adapt our practices, policies, technology and facilities to minimize risks.

All individuals are assessed to determine the level of security they require. The assessment process:

- » Assigns individuals to a suitable correctional centre, living unit and cell;
- » Provides individuals with access to appropriate health care, education, behavioural programs, work activities, and social and recreational opportunities;
- » Offers opportunities for self-improvement to those who meet the criteria for special programs;
- » Gives individuals the chance to engage in community service; and
- » Connects them with culturally appropriate programs and services.

## **SUPERVISING PEOPLE AND SUPPORTING CHANGE**

Individuals are supervised in correctional centres in a number of ways, depending on their security assessment and the physical design of the centre.

As an example, high-risk individuals or those with complex needs are often housed in smaller living units with enhanced staffing, while low-risk individuals may be housed in larger living units.

Our staff are well trained first responders who work in highly complex situations. Correctional officers model positive behaviour, treat individuals with respect, dignity, compassion and care, and use motivational interviewing skills to better support people, understand their circumstances and change problematic behaviours.

They are equipped with technology that provides support and safety to everyone — officers and individuals. All centres have closed-circuit television feeds, and officers carry two-way radios and personal alarms that deploy help to their location.



## WE ARE SHIFTING OUR PRACTICES

We continually develop and adopt new approaches to support the individuals under our supervision. Some of them have complex needs and have experienced trauma, which can make accepting our help difficult at times. Correctional officers are trained to use trauma-informed practices that emphasize physical, psychological and emotional safety for everyone.

To support complex, high risk and high needs individuals in custody, BC Corrections has enhanced case and behaviour management through the use of alternative placements. Alternative placements in correctional centres include Complex Needs Units, which provide intensive supervision in an environment better suited for individuals with unique needs.

Another alternative placement option is Right Living Units, which bring a positive, 'pro-social' approach to a living unit for individuals who are committed to changing their lives. To reside on a Right Living Unit, individuals make a public commitment to the Right Living philosophy and must follow the community rules, which include no violence, no use of non-prescribed substances or weapons. Right Living is a safe and healing environment that prepares members to maintain a healthy life on the 'outside'.

BC Corrections has changed its segregation practices to better safeguard the well-being of people in custody while supporting the safety of correctional staff. Segregation is used only after all other options have been exhausted, and for the shortest possible time.

When someone is placed in segregation, they receive an individualized intensive case management plan that identifies and addresses their unique needs through additional interventions and supports and a focus on providing meaningful contact with others. Other key changes include improving the physical environment in segregation units, Indigenous considerations to ensure culturally appropriate services and supports, and enhanced administrative fairness.

In addition, Supported Integration Placement (SIP) has been implemented as a viable alternative to segregation that ensures placement is individualized, flexible, and collaborative. SIP offers a modified routine, with a minimum of four hours out of cell, on a regular living unit.

As well, health care and mental health professionals, Indigenous cultural liaisons, Elders and other professionals have frequent, regular interactions with individuals on all living units.

We have completed a comprehensive review of our practices and policies for how and when force is used to safely manage individuals to ensure we are meeting standards of excellence within the correctional field.

## **ADULT CUSTODY PROGRAMS THAT HELP CHANGE LIVES**

Our correctional officers facilitate behavioural, educational and work programs to help change individuals' thinking and behaviour to reduce reoffending.

Using systematic and goal-oriented teaching methods, cognitive behavioural programs help people improve their coping skills, learn how attitudes lead to behaviour and develop more positive ways of thinking and reacting to the world around them.

Meta-analyses have clearly demonstrated that cognitive behavioural programs are the most effective correctional tools for reducing recidivism. Larger reductions are found for programs that target higher risk offenders, have high-quality treatment implementation and good program integrity, and include anger control and interpersonal problem solving.

Some of the behavioural programs available to sentenced individuals in provincial custody include:

### **RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAM**

Helps individuals identify abusive behaviour, understand its harmful impact and learn how to avoid it in relationships.

### **FORENSICS SEXUAL OFFENCE PROGRAM**

Delivered by Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission to teach self-management skills that reduce risk factors.

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Uses practical strategies to reduce the negative consequences of substance abuse, ranging from safer use, to managed use to abstinence.

### **THINKING LEADS 2 CHANGE PROGRAM**

A program for medium and high-risk women to explore the roots of their thoughts, beliefs and emotions that led to their anti-social or criminal behaviours.

Other success-building programs:

### **EDUCATIONAL UPGRADING**

Provides adult basic education to high school graduation.

### **ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO SUCCESS PROGRAM**

A series of interactive modules that help remanded and sentenced individuals develop the essential life skills people need to succeed at work and in learning, such as communications skills, goal setting and resume writing. Participation also helps ready an individual's responses to other behavioural change programs

### **INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS**

Indigenous cultural liaisons and Elders help Indigenous individuals connect or reconnect with their culture and community through one-on-one and group activities, spiritual ceremonies and other traditional activities like singing and drumming, and arts and crafts. They also provide counselling and crisis intervention, and deliver cultural awareness programming to individuals from other ethnicities to help foster peace and understanding.

### **INSIDE-OUT PRISON EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program brings individuals in custody and post-secondary students together to complete a university/college level course designed to challenge stereotypes and promote dialogue between "inside" and "outside" students.

The program has been offered in person at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre and Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, and virtually at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre (VIRCC) and Prince George Regional Correctional Centre (PGRCC).

Students at the University of Victoria (UVIC) and individuals in custody at VIRCC and PGRCC have also been offered a similar online course entitled Justice and Being Human to learn from each other's stories and life experiences.

BC Corrections is proud to partner with Vancouver Island University, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, New College of Caledonia, and UVIC to support these powerful learning opportunities for "inside" and "outside" students alike.



### **GUTHRIE HOUSE**

We partner with the John Howard Society of Victoria to deliver a unique program for individuals with addictions at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre. Guthrie House is a 48-bed therapeutic community separate from the rest of the centre that combines work, treatment, counselling and round-the-clock behavioural modeling to give people the chance at a new beginning.

### **PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH A HEAD-START TOWARD EMPLOYMENT**

Individuals in BC's correctional centres are engaged in programs that offer opportunities to gain positive employment skills and do meaningful work. The skills they learn and the confidence they gain can help with their transition back into the community, making a significant difference in their own circumstances and ultimately safer communities for us all.

Individuals work to maintain their centres, from helping in the kitchen to laundry, painting and landscaping. Centres also work closely with community partners to provide opportunities to earn technical certifications, such as building maintenance, industrial first aid, FOODSAFE Level 1, basic electrical, forklift operation and drywall installation.

Some of the other work skills programs in centres include:

### **ANIMAL CARE PROGRAMS**

A unique program on the grounds of Okanagan Correctional Centre trains individuals to care for horses.

Through a partnership with the Okanagan Indian Band, trained handlers guide up to six participants as they feed, groom and wash horses. Horses have long been used to enhance the emotional, behavioural and cognitive skills of people who have experienced trauma and they are an integral part of Indigenous culture in the Okanagan.

At Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre, residents help socialize and prepare rescue dogs for fostering and adoption into new homes. Caring for these at-risk dogs that might otherwise be euthanized provides residents with purpose and new life skills, and can help improve their mental health.



### **WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION CREWS**

Specially trained crews from correctional centres provide vital support to the BC Wildfire Service and allow the men to feel more connected to their communities, and help save property and lives:

- » Crews from the Fraser Regional and Prince George Regional Correctional Centres set up and take down firefighting base camps, keep inventory of supplies, and maintain camp equipment and facilities.
- » Crews at Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre clean, test and repair fire hoses in an innovative 15,000 sq. ft. purpose-built facility that operates year-round.

These services save public dollars by extending the life of fire equipment.

### **CARPENTRY AND METAL FABRICATION**

Many centres teach carpentry and metal work, including fabrication, power-tool use, welding and repair. Crews learn to build items like gazebos, lawn furniture, and picnic tables that are often used in the community when finished.



### **ROOFING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

The Fraser Regional Correctional Centre, Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre and North Fraser Pretrial Centre partner with the Roofing Association of BC to help individuals earn their Level 1 Roofing Apprenticeship and gain meaningful, well-paying employment upon release.

### **SERVICES FOR CAMPS, PARKS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Individuals with the appropriate security clearance give back to the community by providing maintenance, path clearing, cleaning and building for parks, municipal and non-profit groups. They can also help set-up festivals and events, as they did at the 2010 Winter Olympics. These crews are supervised and undergo strict risk assessments to participate.

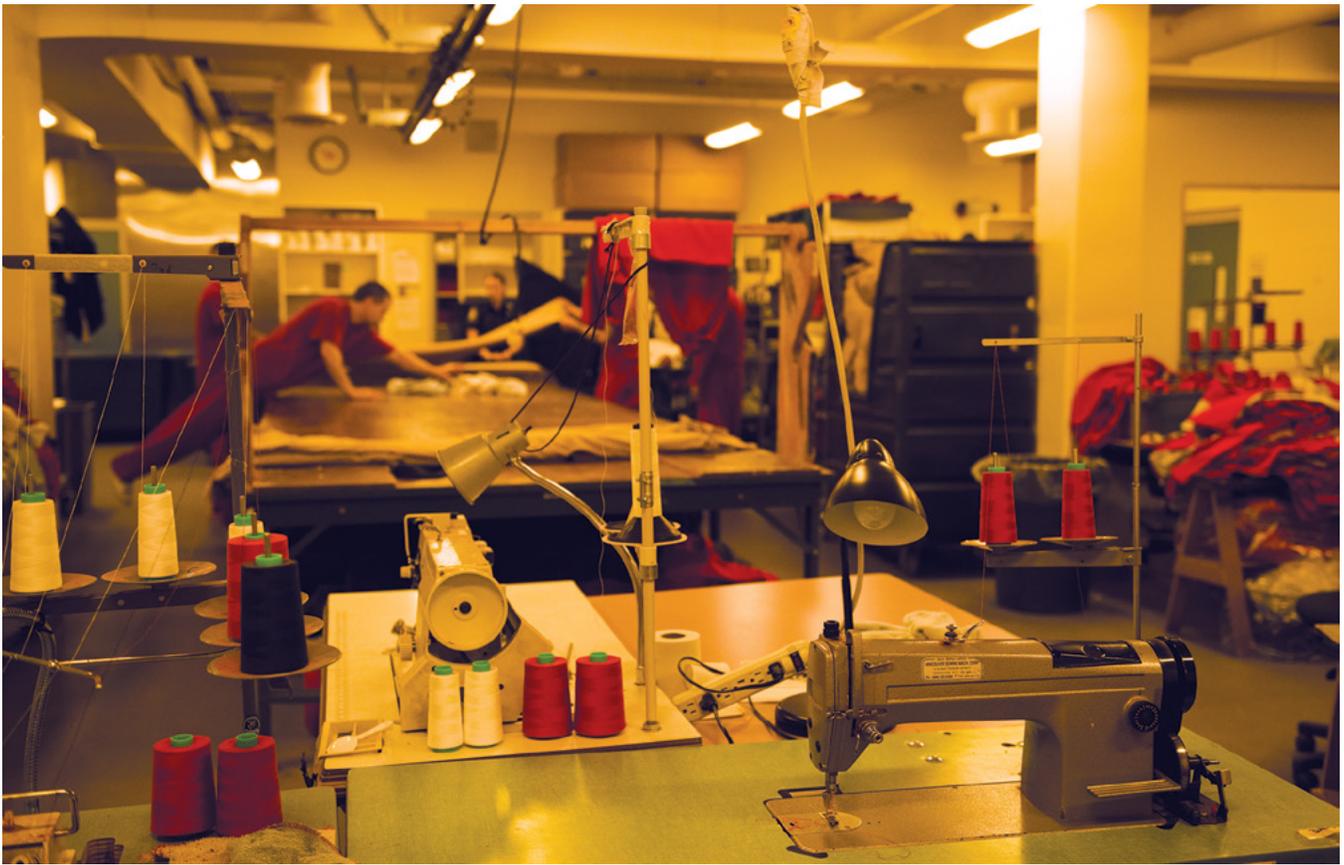
### **WILDLIFE REPURPOSE PARTNERSHIP**

The BC Conservation Officer Service (COS) is dedicated to relationship-building with Indigenous communities across the province. This includes prioritizing the donations of wildlife and wildlife parts that are lawfully in their possession to be returned to the Indigenous community from whose territory the wildlife originated from.

When donations are declined by Indigenous Nations and/or not feasible, the Wildlife Repurpose Partnership between the COS and BC Corrections helps to ensure these donations are used to support Indigenous programming, cultural learning opportunities and ceremonies for individuals in custody.

### **ROAD CLEANUP AND INVASIVE WEED REMOVAL**

We work with the Ministry of Agriculture to train individuals to identify and safely remove invasive plants from provincial roads and highways, and cleanup roadside areas. Individuals who successfully complete the training can earn a pesticide applicator certification.



### **TAILOR SHOP PROGRAM**

The Tailor Shop at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre is a skill-building, Premier's Award-winning work program that makes and mends clothing for people in custody and other items for all 10 correctional centres in BC, and creates much-needed items for local community groups and international aid organizations.

This innovative work program gives individuals the opportunity to develop valuable skills, and it creates essential items for community groups without the ability to purchase or make items, while also allowing for immense cost savings to BC's correctional system.

Each order comes with special requests, and the men work hard to meet them with accuracy. Some of the projects made in this shop include bed rolls for shelters, dog beds for the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA) and bandanas with embroidered logos for Cops for Cancer cyclists.

*“The tailor shop has had a vast impact on my life. Before coming to Surrey Pretrial Services Centre I had done a lot of jobs, never finding one I could see turning into a career I could do for the rest of my life. I’ve now found that job. I’m now the lead hand of the shop and help with the business side, including inventory control, training the new workers and repairing all of the machines.”*

– A TAILOR SHOP PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



### **ALLCO FISH HATCHERY**

In partnership with the Alouette River Management Society, a crew from the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre keeps salmon stocks healthy in the Alouette River and other watersheds.

The crew raises salmon fry from eggs, releases them and then collects new eggs from returning salmon to begin the cycle again. The Allco hatchery has released more than 75 million salmon fry into the wild.

### **FOOD SERVICES**

Around three million meals are served in correctional centres every year. Food services at all 10 centres are supplied by a private service provider to ensure consistent quality and cost control.

A registered dietician provides analysis and advice on menus that are based on gender and activity levels, and are compliant with the Canada Food Guide. Vegetarian, vegan and religious diets are accommodated. Centre physicians prescribe therapeutic diets to help manage health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS**

We care about helping individuals meet their challenges with mental health and addictions.

Every person in custody in BC is assessed within 24 hours of admission to determine their mental health and addictions challenges, with an emphasis on identifying ill patients, preventing self-harm and providing support and treatment.

All correctional centres have mental health professionals who coordinate services for individuals and mental health liaison officers who are correctional officers with specialized training in supporting individuals with complex mental health needs.

Individuals who need mental health support while in custody have specific case plans developed with their input, which may include individual or group therapy.

Release plans are also developed to connect individuals with services and supports that will be available to them in the community when they are released.

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

All Canadians, from every walk of life, have the right to high quality health care.

In BC's correctional centres, the Provincial Health Services Authority's (PHSA) Correctional Health Services team provides health care, mental health supports and addictions services. The PHSA assumed these responsibilities in 2017 to enhance the continuity of care for individuals while they are in custody and upon their release.

In 2019, the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) recognized the Correctional Health Services team and BC Corrections for successfully transferring health care services to the PHSA and significantly improving health and mental health care for individuals in custody in BC.

This has led to more seamless and better-quality care for individuals needing physical, mental, dental and emergency health care services. It also provides more consistent care for individuals with significant mental health and addictions issues.

Each correctional centre has a well-equipped health care unit with an examination room, nursing station, treatment room and dispensary for medication. Whenever an individual comes to a correctional centre, they are assessed by qualified medical and mental health care staff as part of the admissions process. Individuals are referred to the centre physician for routine or urgent care. Health care units provide a wide range of services, including basic first aid, primary care by a centre's physician, isolation for communicable diseases and rapid response to emergency situations. In every situation, medical staff ensure privacy and respect for their patients.

BC Corrections' Mother-Child program allows babies to remain with their mother up to 24 months of age to facilitate breastfeeding and bonding. All women who are pregnant while in custody, or those that have recently given birth in the community, are made aware of the opportunity to apply for the program. Participants receive the same prenatal and postnatal education available to expectant mothers in the community.



# Our Capital Team

Plans & builds the spaces we need to do our work



This team leads the work of all capital and facility projects across our organization. They often oversee multiple challenging projects at the same time, with each one taking a significant amount of planning, coordination and expertise over several years to complete.

At the core of our capital planning are the four priorities in our strategic plan: support our staff, advance correctional supervision, address Indigenous over-representation and support individuals with complex needs. Supporting our staff is the first priority because of the importance of providing them with the tools and safe working environments they need to focus on helping people change their behaviour.

Current capital projects include the renovation of segregation and related areas in facilities throughout BC to better meet the needs of individuals requiring more focused case management and work underway to renovate Community Corrections offices in all regions of the province.

These upgrades will improve the capacity and design of probation offices to better address staff safety and improve program delivery.

Since 2008, BC Corrections has completed approximately \$700 million in major capital projects to address capacity pressures and program needs throughout the province.

In recent years, major capital projects have included the replacement of Nanaimo Correctional Centre to address the evolving needs of Vancouver Island's in-custody population, construction of a work program facility at Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre, the Okanagan Correctional Centre which opened in January 2017, and expansions of Surrey Pretrial Services Centre, Alouette Correctional Centre for Women and Prince George Regional Correctional Centre.

# Our Staff Are Among the Best in BC

## An Award-Winning Organization

Since 2005 our staff have been recognized 24 times at the Premier's Awards, which celebrate the best examples of innovation and excellence across the BC Public Service. These awards showcase the work of some of our most outstanding employees whose professionalism, dedication and innovation make a difference in so many lives.

<b>2023</b>	<b>Winner – Organizational Excellence:</b> BC Corrections: Connecting and Healing Through Culture	<b>2016</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Complex Needs Unit – Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
<b>2021</b>	<b>Finalist - Regional Impact:</b> Community Connections Program - Okanagan Correctional Centre	<b>2015</b>	<b>Finalist – Partnership:</b> Okanagan Correctional Centre Construction – BC Corrections and partners
<b>2019</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Tailor Shop Program – Surrey Pretrial Services Centre	<b>2015</b>	<b>Finalist – Emerging Leader:</b> Blair Spencer – Community Corrections Division
<b>2018</b>	<b>Finalist – Leadership:</b> Simon Glen – Community Corrections Division	<b>2014</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Surrey Pretrial Services Centre Expansion – BC Corrections and partners
<b>2018</b>	<b>Winner – Emerging Leader:</b> Christine Bootsma – Nanaimo Correctional Centre	<b>2014</b>	<b>Winner – Emerging Leader:</b> Karyne Steele – Surrey Pretrial Services Centre
<b>2018</b>	<b>Winner – Leadership:</b> Steve DiCastrì – Okanagan Correctional Centre	<b>2012</b>	<b>Winner – Organizational Excellence:</b> Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Program ( <i>now called the Integrated Transitional and Release Planning Program</i> ) – Community Corrections and Adult Custody Divisions
<b>2018</b>	<b>Winner – Legacy:</b> Brent Merchant – Assistant Deputy Minister	<b>2012</b>	<b>Winner – Cross Government Integration:</b> Drug Treatment Court of Vancouver – BC Corrections and partners
<b>2018</b>	<b>Finalist – Organizational Excellence:</b> Work Programs – Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre and Fraser Regional Correctional Centres	<b>2012</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Guthrie House – Nanaimo Correctional Centre (Vancouver Island Region)
<b>2017</b>	<b>Finalist – Innovation:</b> Right Living Community – Ford Mountain (Xàws Schó:lha [house-Shhka-law]) Correctional Centre	<b>2010</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Guthrie House – Nanaimo Correctional Centre (Provincial)
<b>2017</b>	<b>Finalist – Partnership:</b> Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program – BC Corrections and Vancouver Island University	<b>2010</b>	<b>Winner – Organizational Excellence:</b> BC Corrections – Adult Custody Division
<b>2017</b>	<b>Finalist – Leadership:</b> Carrie McCulley – Strategic Operations Division	<b>2009</b>	<b>Winner – Innovation:</b> Fraser Regional Correctional Centre Management Team in the Lower Mainland
<b>2017</b>	<b>Finalist – Emerging Leader:</b> Gary Tattrie – Community Corrections Division	<b>2005</b>	<b>Winner – Organizational Excellence:</b> BC Corrections – Adult Custody Division

# We Are in the Business of Helping People

Our staff are passionate about their work



They show up every day, behind the scenes in communities and correctional centres across the province, to support the people under our care with compassion, professionalism and skill. As peace officers in our province, our staff maintain principled and honest relationships with people in our communities both on and off duty.

Some of the individuals we help have complex needs and have experienced significant trauma in their lives – trauma that makes accepting our help difficult at times. We care about the people we supervise and genuinely hope that we make a difference.

## **WE TRULY BELIEVE PEOPLE CAN CHANGE**

Sometimes, people send us thank you cards and letters after they leave us. Their messages give us pride and renewed commitment, and help us reflect on why we do this work.

### **A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CLIENT:**

*"Thank you for your thoughtfulness and understanding. It was very much appreciated."*

### **A LETTER FROM AN INDIVIDUAL AT VANCOUVER ISLAND CORRECTIONAL CENTRE:**

*"God bless you and once again,  
thank you so much."*

*"To Those involved in saving a life.*

*A world of thank you from (name withheld for privacy). I truly believe those involved did save my life. I have a great deal to thank you for so much. To even the guard who called me an ambulance and nurses at the hospital and at Wilkinson Road. My wife is so glad I am ok.*

*You all did a wonderful job to keep me alive. I one day will be getting out and be getting back together with my wife. If you all had not saved me, she would be a very misunderstood wife, so thank you very much. I will do my best in the future as far as responsibility and behavior thanks to what you have done for me already. God bless you and once again, thank you so much."*

**A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS CLIENT:**

*“...I do believe this is going to be a life changer for me... Thank you so much for believing in me.”*

“Hi (name with held for privacy).

Just wanted to write you and give you an update. I've been on fire crew for 3 weeks now and I absolutely love it. Thank you so much for being there and supporting me in this. If done properly I do believe this is going to be a life changer for me. I'm completely in your debt and just wanted you to know that your deeds have not gone unnoticed. Thank you so much for believing in me and please let (name with held for privacy) know the same goes for him. So this is me working on the first stage of my plan, then treatment, then class one drivers and the rest of my life.”

**A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS CLIENT:**

*“I appreciate your guidance and understanding... your advice definitely saved me some headaches.”*

“I wanted to thank you for having me as your guest at all the meetings we had. I appreciate your guidance and understanding as you witnessed some troubling experiences that I had to work through; your advice definitely saved me some headaches. I reflect on some of the things you have said, and agree, I have changed a lot in this last year. But I wonder about the many people you see and how amazing it is to watch all the transformations. I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate your opinions and hope I can call on you in the future.”

**A LETTER FROM AN INDIVIDUAL AT ALOUETTE  
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN:**

*“...This has been my home, treatment centre, and my school...I've learned a lot in this time, with all of you being my "teachers" in some way.”*

“During the last 6 months this has been my home, treatment center or school mind you, but that's how I've looked at it. I've learned a lot in this time, with all of you being my "teachers" in some way.

When I've disappointed any of you, I felt it, as if I'd disappointed my mother, probably even more so and I've tried not to do it again. It may not have always worked out that way. However none of you EVER stopped believing in me, or knowing that I was better than the bad choices I was making.

I've come a long ways, grown up a lot, and lost the chip on my shoulder since you've all met me. While I know only I could have done the work needed, you've all influenced me to do so. I hope one day to be like all of you because you're all some of the greatest women I've been lucky enough to meet. Thank-you for EVERYTHING.”

**A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS CLIENT:**

“Thank you for truly caring about me and my success. It means alot to me.”

**A LETTER FROM A COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS CLIENT:**

*“Thank you for bringing light into my life.”*

“Thank you for bringing light into my life... Here is some more light for yours... I hope I never have to see you again!”

*Profile of*  
**BC Corrections**

Learn more about us:



[bit.ly/3QiWAtb](https://bit.ly/3QiWAtb)