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Ms. Lisa Lapointe
Chief Coroner
Office of the Chief Coroner
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

I am responding to your letter of November 13, 2018, in which you enclose a copy of the Verdict at Coroners Inquest concerning the death of Deanna Desjarlais. Specifically, you have asked for my ministry to provide a response to Recommendation Number 10, which reads:

Reduce incarceration rates for minor and administrative offences through the expanded use of alternative sentencing approaches.

I can advise that the BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) policy on Alternative Measures for Adult Offenders (ALT-1) is responsive to this recommendation. The ALT-1 policy recognizes that alternative measures programs can be the most appropriate and effective way to address harm done to the community, and to allow offenders to be rehabilitated and accept responsibility for their harmful conduct. Alternative measures take into account the interests of society, the needs of the offender, and the protection of society. The BCPS supports the use of alternative measures programs and in particular, the use of such programming which recognizes the circumstances of Indigenous offenders. The ALT-1 policy is available online (as is the entire Crown Counsel Policy Manual) at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/prosecution-service/crown-counsel-policy-manual/alt-1.pdf>

In addition to the above policy direction, I can advise that the BCPS recently adopted the following strategic priority as part of its 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan:

Implement policies on bail and administration of justice offences which, without endangering public safety, seek to address disproportionate impacts upon accused persons from disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, and reduce the unacceptable overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in the criminal justice system

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Ministry of
Attorney General

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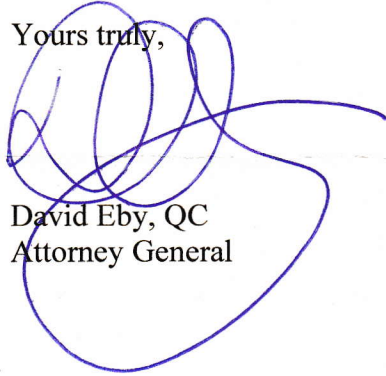
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I understand that the BCPS expects to implement policies consistent with the stated strategic priority by the end of March 2019.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Inquest Recommendation Number 10. I trust that you will find this information useful.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Eby, QC
Attorney General