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CHIEF CORONER

May 1, 2019

Ms. Lisa Lapointe  
Chief Coroner  
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J4

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2019, in which you provided the Verdict of Inquest concerning the death of William Ryan Fisher. In response to the recommendations from this inquest, the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General provides the following in response to recommendations 1, 2 and 3:

BC Corrections has recently completed an in-depth review of its use of segregation, separate confinement and inmate disciplinary processes. This review considered court rulings and actions underway in other jurisdictions related to segregation reform and resulted in 13 action items to reduce the use of segregation and improve conditions of confinement. Of these action items, facility improvements, including cameras and increased staffing, have been identified.

A detailed plan is being developed to implement these changes through a phased-in, scalable approach over five years.

With respect to recommendation 5, the BC Ambulance Service will provide correctional centres with an information sheet and web links outlining critical information that should be conveyed to assist 911 operators to assess the emergency and determine the correct response personnel to attend incidents. These resources will be made available and direction given to BC Corrections staff to review.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General