



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01279**

BY: **MR. DUBÉ (BELOEIL—CHAMBLY)**

DATE: **APRIL 13, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE RALPH GOODALE, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Correctional facilities

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The government recognizes the positive impact that visiting with family and friends has on the rehabilitation of federal inmates. By facilitating these visits, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) encourages offenders to develop and maintain family and community ties in preparation for their return to the community.

Given the importance of ensuring the security and safety of the penitentiary, staff and visitors, all visits with inmates are managed in accordance with CSC policies, including those concerning contraband and unauthorized activities. These policies are enforced through extensive search procedures for staff, visitors and inmates.

CSC has tools and practices in place to prevent contraband from entering the institutions, including ion scanners. The ion scanner is a non-intrusive search method that is part of an overall risk assessment process. It is a tool used to determine if a person or item has potentially been in contact with a narcotic. The ion scanner provides additional information to the staff member assessing an individual's risk level in regard to contraband introduction. CSC policy requires an assessment of risk be completed following a positive indication on the ion scanner device before a decision is taken on the status of the visitor's request for access to a CSC institution. With these procedures, visitors of inmates are not penalized with restricted visits based on ion scanner results alone.

CSC is continually exploring new technologies and assessing procedures already in place in order to ensure the proper utilization of available detection tools. CSC has committed to undertaking a review of the use of ion scanners in its

institutions in light of concerns regarding their reliability. Safely facilitating visits by friends and family, as an important pillar of successful inmate rehabilitation, continues to be a priority for the government.