

Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness



Ministre de la Sécurité publique
et de la Protection civile

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

SEP 25 2018

The Honourable Kevin Sorenson
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Sorenson:

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to respond to the Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, “Report 5 – Preparing Women Offenders for Release – Correctional Service of Canada,” Fall 2017 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada, tabled on May 30, 2018.

Responding to the unique and diverse needs of women offenders in federal institutions has been at the forefront of corrections in Canada since 1990 with the release of the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women’s ground-breaking report, *Creating Choices*. Five guiding principles were identified in that Report that would serve as the foundation for a correctional strategy for women offenders: Empowerment; Meaningful and Responsible Choices; Respect and Dignity; Supportive Environment; and Shared Responsibility. The federal government’s unanimous endorsement of the recommendations contained in this report signaled a major shift in the corrections approach for women. While significant progress has been made in all areas pertaining to women’s corrections, the recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada and of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts underscore the importance of shared responsibility and the need for a renewed collective commitment to improving reintegration results for women offenders, and for Indigenous women offenders in particular.

As you are aware, our Government accepted all recommendations of the Auditor General, and the Correctional Service of Canada has developed a Management Action Plan to respond to all the recommendations. As these plans are implemented, I will be holding the Correctional Service of Canada accountable for achieving results on behalf of the Government and for reporting its results to Canadians. As such, I accept all nine recommendations submitted to the Government in your Report dated May 30, 2018. As the Prime Minister has said a number of times, it is our collective responsibility to ensure that we fulfill our promises and deliver real results to Canadians.

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Your Report is a valuable contribution to this work as the Government continues to modernize the correctional system.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness