

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

18 SEP. 2017  
18 SEP. 17

The Honourable Kevin Sorenson, P.C., M.P.  
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 3 – Preparing Indigenous Offenders for Release – Correctional Service of Canada, of the Fall 2016 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, tabled on May 15, 2017.

Indigenous Peoples of Canada have endured the cumulative effects of inter-generational trauma, which have resulted, in many cases, in incarceration, and loss of family and community connections. These impacts continue to manifest themselves in the disproportional representation and annual increase of Indigenous Peoples in custody. Our Government is committed to doing all that is required to address this long standing problem. The Report and recommendations of the Auditor General of Canada on how the Correctional Service of Canada is preparing Indigenous offenders for release and the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts have outlined the urgent need for a renewed collective commitment to improving reintegration results for Indigenous offenders.

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 eight recommendations submitted to the Government in your Report dated May 15, 2017.

Canada

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. Your Report is a valuable contribution to this work as the Government continues to renew its nation to nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', is positioned above the typed name.

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