

Monday May 14, 2018

Ms. Christina Danlychenko, Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutional Services
Ms. Barbara Simmons, Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting), Modernization
Ms. Kelly Michalicka, Director, Modernization Learning and Development Branch
Mr. Robert Bonofiglio, Manager, Corrections Reform Policy Branch
Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

Dear Ms. Danlychenko, Ms. Simmons, Ms. Michalicka and Mr. Bonofiglio,

On behalf of the Coalition on Reforming Segregation in Ontario's Correctional Institutions (the Coalition), I am writing to thank you for meeting with us on April 23rd. We appreciated the opportunity to brief you on our work and recommendations as they concern Bill 6: *Correctional Services and Reintegration Act, 2018*.

The Coalition as you are aware is made up of organizations and individuals concerned with supporting the health and well-being of people who are incarcerated by promoting mental health, health equity and restorative justice. We work to call attention to the damaging practice of segregation and to the immediate reforms needed to mitigate associated harms across provincial correctional facilities for incarcerated persons.

As discussed, we are pleased with the ministry's direction so far and are encouraged by the updates you provided on healthcare transformation efforts, and on the expert advisory panel's progress. We also commend the ministry's work on segregation reform to date, including ministerial directives to standardize disciplinary segregation and access to personal items, and implementing weekly segregation reviews that include clinicians.

We understand that lasting transformation requires commitment over time and will be incremental. Yet, recognizing that change is long overdue and that segregation has a disproportionate impact on already vulnerable groups, we strongly recommend that the government strive to prohibit segregation for identified groups within five years instead of ten. We would also like to see timely reforms in regular mental health assessments for people in segregation applied consistently across institutions.

Congratulations on the Bill's recent passage. We welcome the opportunity to support correctional services transformation in any way that we can, including consulting on regulations and policies and helping to keep the issue of segregation reform front and centre among external audiences.

We thank you for your continued commitment to this critical work and look forward to connecting with you further in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Erin Boudreau, Manager, Government Relations, Policy and Community Engagement *on behalf of the Coalition*

Coalition Members

Dr. Michaela Beder

[Criminalization and Punishment Education Project](#) – University of Ottawa and Carleton University

[Elizabeth Fry Toronto](#)

[Empowerment Council](#)

[John Howard Society of Ontario](#)

[Mothers Offering Mutual Support \(MOMS\)](#)

[Ontario Correctional Nurses' Interest Group](#)

[Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario](#)

[Schizophrenia Society of Ontario](#)

[St. Leonard's Society of Canada](#)