



A 2015 study by Correctional Service Canada showed, at admission to federal custody, 70% of men and 77% of women offenders suffered from a substance use issue.

SUPPORT BILL C-283

THE "END THE REVOLVING DOOR" ACT

WHY THIS IS NECESSARY

- Failing to treat mental health and addiction issues of individuals in our federal penitentiaries leaves open the revolving door of re-offenders affecting Canadians and their communities.
- We'll be better served in reducing recidivism, improving public safety, and bringing more confidence in our justice system by getting people help through curative treatment while they are serving time.

WHAT BILL C-283 CHANGES

- It creates a framework for the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada to be able to designate all or a part of a federal correctional facility as an 'addiction treatment facility'.
- It amends the Criminal Code to support a two-stream sentencing process in federal penitentiaries. If convicted individuals meet certain parameters, at the time of sentencing, a judge could offer the choice to be sentenced to participate in a mental health assessment and in addictions treatment inside a federal penitentiary while they serve their sentence.

WHY PARLIAMENT SHOULD SUPPORT BILL C-283

- Current systems within justice dealing with individuals with mental health and addiction clearly need changes to help people, their families, and our communities.
- Bill C-283 is in line with the House of Common's support for Bill C-228 in the previous Parliament to establish a federal framework to reduce recidivism, where healing is the best path towards reducing recidivism in Canada

BILL C-283 HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS

- 7TH STEP SOCIETY OF CANADA
- AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS AND EMERGENCY DISPATCHERS OF BC
- BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS OF BC
- CANADIAN FAMILIES AND CORRECTIONS NETWORK
- CHURCH COUNCIL ON JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS
- CENTRE FOR JUSTICE EXCHANGE
- DRUG PREVENTION NETWORK OF CANADA
- MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE CANADA
- NATIVE COUNSELLING SERVICES OF ALBERTA
- QUAKERS FOSTERING JUSTICE
- ST. LEONARD'S SOCIETY OF CANADA
- SALVATION ARMY

"The introduction of Bill C -283 is important, as it is a firm step towards addressing the issue of addictions and its relationship to crime and recidivism. Equipping Correctional Service Canada with the legislative authority to address the drug crisis in an institutional setting provides the service with meaningful tools to help all Canadians address addictions and its relationship to crime."

- Marlene Orr, Chief Executive Officer, Native Counselling Services of Alberta

"By providing an intervention to those that suffer from addictions and mental health issues while incarcerated, it creates a safer, productive citizen post release into the community."

- Tina Naidoo, Chief Executive Officer Texas Offenders Reentry Initiative

"The relationship between substance misuse/dependence and criminal justice are quite inextricably linked, and Canada is in serious need of more tools in the toolbox! I believe Bill C-283 has the potential to create some of those tools."

-Anita Desai, President, National Associations Active in Criminal Justice

"Families are eager to help their loved ones inside and we commend you on taking this bill forward!"

-Louise Leonardi, Executive Director, Canadian Families and Corrections Network

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT US AT 613-992-7006 OR TRACY.GRAY@PARL.GC.CA