



RESPONSE TO PETITION

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

PETITION No.: **421-03283**

BY: **MR. ANDERSON (CYPRESS HILLS-GRASSLANDS)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

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

Terry-Lynne McClintic

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

As per the *Privacy Act*, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) cannot comment on a specific case or publicly disclose information about the location of an offender.

On September 26, 2018, the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness asked CSC's Commissioner to undertake a complete review of the facts surrounding the case of an offender who was transferred to a healing lodge, as well as a review of the long-standing policies which led to the offender's transfer. After completion of the review, the Minister provided direction to CSC on its offender transfer policies. Based on this direction, CSC revised its policies to strengthen the role of the Deputy Commissioner for Women in the decision-making process of transfers of offenders to healing lodges. Prior to transferring a medium-security offender to a multi-level healing lodge, CSC will ensure that a representative from the Indigenous community is engaged in the recommendation.

Further, CSC has made changes that will improve its case management decision-making and better align its transfer and security classification policies. These revised policies will ensure more structured sentence planning for medium-security offenders serving long-term sentences before a transfer decision is made to a multi-level healing lodge.

CSC will consider the following factors in the transfer policy for such offenders: the length of an inmate's sentence; the time remaining before an inmate is eligible for an Unescorted Temporary Absence; and, the requirement that long term offenders be in the "preparation for release" or "reintegration into the community" phase of their Correctional Plan.

CSC has various classifications of institutions which require dynamic and static measures in order to reflect the degree of control required to maintain the security and stability of the institution and to protect the public, staff and offenders. The Okimaw Ochi Healing Lodge, specifically, is a multi-level security level facility. All CSC facilities require the control and monitoring of inmate movement within the institution. This includes procedures such as regular patrols and inmate counts. As well, institutions have the appropriate security equipment and training to manage the inmates, including how to respond to incidents and emergencies.