

Follow-Up Response
The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights (RIDR)
Regarding Human Rights of Federally-Sentenced Persons in the Correctional System
February 27, 2019 Appearance

1. During the committee hearing, Ms. Kelly discussed the reopening of the prison farm program in select penitentiaries.

a) Who did CSC consult with when redesigning the program? How involved were prisoners in this process?

In order to develop a new plan for implementation, CSC reviewed information gathered during town hall and community consultations conducted during 2016-2017. In May 2017, a Farm Advisory Panel was appointed consisting of seven community members as well as CORCAN managers and staff. Since June 2017, CSC has been holding regular meetings with this panel, as well as consulting separately with industry, governmental and regulatory agencies, non-profit organizations, educational facilities and individual community members. CSC has also reviewed research and other reports as part of this review. The consultations have occurred as presentations to the Farm Advisory Panel or in separate meetings with CORCAN, depending on the nature of the consultation. In addition, the previous operations were considered as they compared to current industry standards, program objectives, and the need to develop a model that is both effective and sustainable.

The Inmate Committees at Joyceville Institution and Collins Bay Institution were kept apprised of the consultations and also provided some information to CSC during the development of the plan. Discussions will continue to occur throughout the implementation. In addition, a former offender from the farming program was consulted and continues to be a resource that CSC can access as implementation planning is ongoing. CSC is also consulting with the Indigenous Elders and CSC Aboriginal Initiatives representatives, in addition to making presentations to the Citizen's Advisory Committee and Regional Ethnocultural Committee, as part of the ongoing consultations and information sharing to ensure the diversity of our offender population is represented in the farming program.

The information from multiple sources was considered to identify a new integrated and diverse model for the farming operations. Consultations will continue with a variety of stakeholders and interested parties throughout the implementation.

b) Did CSC consult with Evolve our Prison Farms? If not, is there an intention to work with the organization in the future? What is CSC's response to the Evolve our Prison Farms mandate?

Evolve our Prison Farms (EPF) was consulted and continues to have the opportunity to provide information directly to CORCAN. EPF made a presentation to the Farm Advisory Panel in August 2017 proposing that the farming operations not include elements of livestock farming. The Farm Advisory Panel advised them during this meeting that they did not concur with excluding livestock farming, however invited them to continue to work with the Farm Advisory Panel to consult on elements of the plan that did not include livestock (for example, the land and horticulture elements). EPF chose not to continue to engage with the Farm Advisory Panel. The A/CEO of CORCAN offered to continue consultation with EPF directly and as a result has continued to receive information from this group. The A/CEO, CORCAN reviews this as received and seeks opportunities to incorporate their ideas into the overall plan; however, they continue to request that livestock farming be excluded. CSC does not have a specific comment on their mandate as we respect all organizations and industry areas, which create a diverse

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variety of activities that are reflective of the community farming industry. It is important that the model within CSC's penitentiaries is balanced to reflect diversity of farming within the community and provides program sustainability through revenue generation and reinvestment. Therefore, livestock operations as well as a variety of activities that do not include livestock are incorporated into the model. This provides a broad representation of farming industry in the community and will respect offenders' choices related to involvement in livestock operations or non-livestock operations as part of their employment training program.

c) How are prisoners selected to work on the farms? Does CSC provide farm jobs to prisoners who do not agree with raising and butchering livestock? Are all prisoners who worked on the farm required to partake in the livestock practices?

The offenders who participate in the job training and employment opportunities for offenders within the penitentiary farms employment program are selected in accordance with CD 730 – Offender Pay and Program Assignment. Offenders can fill out an application at any time or be referred by their Case Management Team (although would still need to complete an application and wish to be involved in the program). All applications are considered by the Correctional Intervention Board, which includes information from various consultations (Parole Officer, Security Intelligence Officer, CORCAN instructor/manager). The Correctional Intervention Board approves the placements. This process follows the same policy as other employment assignments and program involvement.

There will be a variety of employment and training opportunities available, including both with and without involvement in the livestock operations.

d) Where does CSC intend to do with the produce, dairy, and other animal products/meat that is created through the farm projects?

At this time, the goods produced through the farming operations are anticipated to be crops, vegetables, fruits, and raw milk. All goods produced by CORCAN are managed in accordance with the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA), Sections 106 and 107:

106 Goods and services that are produced or made available by CORCAN may be transferred, leased, loaned or provided to

(a) any department, branch or agency of the Government of Canada or the government of a province or to any municipality;

(b) any charitable, non-profit, religious or spiritual organization; or

(c) any purchaser in the ordinary course of trade under competitive conditions.

107 (1) CORCAN may enter into an agreement with a private sector enterprise

(a) for the production of goods or the provision of services; or

(b) for the training and employment of offenders by that enterprise.

(2) Where an agreement referred to in subsection (1) permits the enterprise to operate a business in a penitentiary, the Service may:

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(a) recover from the enterprise any costs incurred by the Service as a result of the use of the penitentiary by the enterprise, including utilities; and

(b) limit, by means of a specific agreement, the liability of Her Majesty in right of Canada with respect to the enterprise's operations in the penitentiary.

The sale of goods and services generate revenues to sustain and reinvest in the employment and employability training opportunities for offenders. Where possible, products generated are used internally, and where this is not deemed feasible, CSC seeks partnerships with local businesses and organizations, as well as sales to private industry in consideration of regulations and market needs. All goods produced will be managed in accordance with legislation, policy and regulatory requirements.