

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

Follow-up Questions:

1. It was mentioned that when offenders are placed in SIUs, officers and practitioners will provide interventions to them in order to release them back to the general population as soon as possible:

a. At what point will these interventions occur?

Interventions will typically begin the day following the transfer of the inmate to the Structured Intervention Unit (SIU). Interventions from the Elder/Spiritual Worker or Chaplain could occur earlier.

From a health care perspective, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has a legislative mandate to provide every inmate with essential health care and reasonable access to non-essential mental health care that will contribute to the inmate's rehabilitation and reintegration into the community, in keeping with professionally accepted standards. CSC has an integrated Mental Health Strategy and a mental health service delivery model to ensure essential mental health care services match the needs of the offender population.

CSC provides offenders with a variety of mental health interventions, including assessments and treatment. Mental health services are provided by qualified mental health professionals, and are based on an assessment of the individual offender's needs. On a daily basis, a registered health care professional will engage in a clinical encounter with each inmate in an SIU.

b. How often will these interventions occur?

Targeted interventions are case specific and will be determined by the needs of the inmate – these would occur during the week. Other interventions can happen daily, such as, for example, education or activities with Social Program Officers.

Furthermore, effective and timely intervention in addressing mental health needs of offenders is a corporate priority for CSC. Mental health services are provided based on an assessment of the individual offender's needs. On a daily basis, a registered health care professional will engage in a clinical encounter.

c. What is the minimum/maximum amount of time spent in SIU?

There is no minimum or maximum. Inmates will only be transferred to an SIU if there is no reasonable alternative and they will be transferred out as soon as the risk posed either by or to the inmate can be mitigated.