

A WORK IN PROGRESS:

The Corrections and Conditional Release Act

**Sub-committee on Corrections and
Conditional Release Act
of the
Standing Committee on
Justice and Human Rights**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

[PREFACE](#)

[MEMBERS](#)

[CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION](#)

[RECENT HISTORY](#)

[REVIEW PROCESS](#)

FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY AGENCIES UNDER THE ACT

GENERAL THEMES

CHAPTER 2: PUBLIC PROTECTION AS THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION

PURPOSE

PRINCIPLES

ADDING TO THE SCHEDULES

APPREHENSION IN CASES OF BREACH OF CONDITIONAL RELEASE

INVESTIGATIONS

TEMPORARY ABSENCES - CITIZEN ESCORTS

CHAPTER 3: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND OFFENDER REHABILITATION

A CLEAR MANDATE FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICE

INFORMATION ON OFFENDERS

PROGRAMS ADAPTED TO OFFENDERS' NEEDS

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

SPECIAL GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

CHAPTER 4: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND GRADUAL OFFENDER REINTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY

AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN STATUTORY RELEASE AND OTHER TYPES OF CONDITIONAL RELEASE

ACCELERATED PAROLE REVIEW PROCEDURE

CLEARER DEMARCATION OF DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY ON GRADUAL
CONDITIONAL RELEASE

NEED TO EXTEND SCOPE OF SOME FORMS OF CONDITIONAL RELEASE

Temporary Absence

Parole on Compassionate Grounds

Parole for Purposes of Deportation Under the Immigration Act

CHAPTER 5: FAIR AND EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING

ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION

Some Data

Recent History

Independent Adjudication

The Sub-committee's Position

SPECIAL HANDLING UNIT

INMATE DISCIPLINE - INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSONS

PAROLE BOARD REVIEW OF SUSPENDED PAROLE OR STATUTORY
RELEASE

BOARD DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO OFFENDERS

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD - APPEAL DIVISION

CHAPTER 6: OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATOR

OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATOR: ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES
AND POWERS

Powers of Investigation: Access to Correctional Service Information and Facilities

Complaint Settlement Procedure

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONAL INVESTIGATOR IN CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE

CHAPTER 7: ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

A NATIONAL WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 8: VICTIMS' RIGHTS

RECEIVING OFFENDER INFORMATION

PROVIDING VICTIM INFORMATION

UNWANTED COMMUNICATIONS FROM OFFENDERS

VICTIMS' INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS OFFICE

CHAPTER 9: CORRECTIONS AND CONDITIONAL RELEASE SYSTEM-WIDE AND LONG-TERM ISSUES

TRAINING ISSUES

HEALTH CARE

DRUGS IN PRISON

MAXIMUM-SECURITY/SPECIAL-NEEDS WOMEN

DNA DATABANK LEGISLATION

PLAIN LANGUAGE LEGISLATION

PUBLIC EDUCATION

A FURTHER FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

RECOMMENDATIONS

APPENDIX A - TERMS OF REFERENCE

APPENDIX B - LIST OF WITNESSES

APPENDIX C - LIST OF SUBMISSIONS (THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT, SECOND SESSION)

APPENDIX D - INSTITUTIONS VISITED BY THE MEMBERS

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

DISSENTING OPINION: Canadian Alliance

DISSENTING OPINION: Progressive Conservative Party

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

RECOMMENDATION 11

The Sub-committee recommends that the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* be amended to require Correctional Service Canada to review all cases eligible for statutory release in order to determine whether they should be referred to the National Parole Board for a detention review.

RECOMMENDATION 12

The Sub-committee recommends also that the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* be amended to require the National Parole Board to review all cases eligible for statutory release in order to determine whether special conditions need to be attached to the inmate's release and, if so, to identify these conditions.

4.23 The Sub-committee believes that as a result of these amendments, society will be better protected and inmates' attitude toward the process of social reintegration will be improved. Nevertheless, it also feels that the statutory release provisions must be reviewed in depth during the next review of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act*. This issue will be addressed in the last chapter of this report.

ACCELERATED PAROLE REVIEW PROCEDURE

4.24 The Sub-committee repeatedly heard at its hearings that the conditional release programs most successful in reducing recidivism were those that relied on discretionary decisions by either the Correctional Service or the National Parole Board. In its brief, the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime stated:

It is interesting to note that the conditional releases with the highest success rates are those that rely on the judgments of professionals and are based on proper risk assessments that focus on public safety, where the lowest success rates are for those releases by law, including statutory release and accelerated parole review.⁴⁵

4.25 While the Sub-committee notes the lower success rate among offenders released under accelerated parole review for day and full parole, it does not believe that accelerated parole review should be eliminated. In fact, it believes that two amendments should suffice to make accelerated parole review correspond to the Sub-committee's position on conditional release: tightening the eligibility criteria; and changing the risk of recidivism criterion to be taken into account by the National Parole Board in reviewing cases.

4.26 The Sub-committee considers it crucial to recognize a significant difference between the