

Chapter 47

Justice – Adult Inmate Rehabilitation

1.0 MAIN POINTS

While the Ministry of Justice (Justice) has made progress on the three recommendations we made in 2008, progress has been slow. Justice has designed reports to improve information available for decision making but has not finished the reporting process. Once complete, it expects these reports will help its employees to better plan, monitor, and enhance inmates' access to programming to address rehabilitation needs. It also expects these reports to help it evaluate the effectiveness of those programs. It is important that Justice promptly implement its reporting processes so that its employees can use this information to improve rehabilitation programming provided to adult inmates before they are released into the community.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Justice, through its Custody, Supervision and Rehabilitative Services Division, provides programs aimed at reducing reoffending and improving the ability of offenders to reintegrate into their communities.¹

Our *2008 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 2 reported the results of our audit of Justice's processes to rehabilitate adult inmates; we concluded Justice had adequate processes to rehabilitate sentenced adult inmates in provincial correctional centres except for completing timely assessments and case plans, and monitoring the delivery of rehabilitation programs. We made four recommendations.

Our *2010 Report – Volume 1*, Chapter 4, reported that by March 2010, Justice had implemented one recommendation related to facilitating inmates' access to key programming. Our *2011 Report – Volume 2*, Chapter 4, reported that by August 2011, although Justice had made some progress, it had not fully implemented the remaining three recommendations. This is our third follow-up.

To conduct this review engagement, we followed the standards for assurance engagements published in the *CPA Canada Handbook – Assurance*. To evaluate Justice's progress towards meeting our recommendations, we used the relevant criteria from the original audit. Justice agreed with the criteria in the original audit. We based our findings on discussions with management as well as examination of key documents.

3.0 STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

This section sets out each recommendation including the date on which the Standing Committee on Public Accounts agreed to the recommendation, the status of the recommendation at August 31, 2015, and Justice's actions up to that date. We found

¹ Ministry of Justice *Annual Report 2014-15*, p. 5.



that Justice has made further progress to address our recommendations, but still has work to do.

3.1 Reporting Processes for Improving Access to Rehabilitation Programs Progressing

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice consistently comply with its policies to assess inmates' needs (primary and secondary) and plan relevant programs (2008 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement August 28, 2008)

Status – Partially Implemented

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice monitor the proportion of inmates accessing planned rehabilitations programs before the inmates are released into the community and enhance access to rehabilitation if required. (2008 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement August 28, 2008)

Status – Partially Implemented

Justice continued to increase its capacity for completing timely assessments of inmate's rehabilitation needs for case planning by working to improve information available for decision making. In 2015, Justice designed reports that included an inmate's custody admission date, custody discharge date, sentence length, risk assessments completed, rehabilitation needs identified, rehabilitation programs planned, and program completion dates.

By August 31, 2015, Justice had not yet finished compiling all data to complete this reporting process. Once completed, it expects the reports will help correctional workers to more effectively manage their caseloads so that risk assessments and case plans are developed timely. The reports will also help management to monitor achievement of case management policies and inmate access to programming, and take corrective action as needed (e.g., update processes, adjust caseloads, provide additional training).

In 2015, Justice implemented a new information technology system, Criminal Justice Information Management System (CJIMS), for adult offender case management. Within the next few years, management plans to develop reports in the new system to improve efficiency and timeliness of its reporting process.

3.2 Evaluation of Inmate Rehabilitation Programs Evolving

We recommended that the Ministry of Justice monitor re-offending rates in relation to rehabilitation programs to better evaluate its rehabilitation of inmates. (2008 Report – Volume 1; Public Accounts Committee agreement August 28, 2008)

Status – Partially Implemented

Justice continued to increase its capacity to report about timely inmate access to rehabilitation programs and the evaluation of those programs. At August 2015, Justice plans to develop additional reports in its new case management system, CJIMS, to help it monitor re-offending rates in relation to rehabilitation programs.

In the interim, Justice is developing a process to track re-offence rates following release from custody of inmates who have completed planned rehabilitation programs. Justice has completed some analysis at one of the provincial correctional centres; it plans to use this analysis to develop a province-wide process for analyzing re-offence rates in relation to rehabilitation programs.

