

Date: September 13, 2024

To: **Standing Committee on Public Safety**

Name and title: Eric Depenau, Director, Administrative Services

Subject: Release Procedure – BC Corrections

Attachment(s): Province of BC – Release from Custody Overview

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report titled “Release Procedure – BC Corrections”, from the Director of Administrative Services dated September 13, 2024.

Purpose:

This report is a vehicle for conversation on committee work plan item 2C. *Released offenders from Prince George Regional Correction Centre and return to their home community.*

Background:

Generally, municipal staff are poorly positioned to comment on the release procedures used by BC Corrections as that body is a separate provincial entity. The Committee may wish to request a delegation from BC Corrections to supplement this report at a later date.

The Province shares information on the release from custody process and an overview is attached to this report as an aid for conversation. Excerpts from the overview include:

Most offenders in provincial correctional centres are released sometime after serving two-thirds of their sentence. When they are released depends on how much remission (or time off they receive for good behavior) they earn by their behavior in custody. Because sentences served in provincial jails are shorter and involve less serious offences, these offenders are not supervised after their release unless the judge has given a probation order. Probation follows time in custody.

When an offender is nearing the point when they will be released from custody, federal or provincial corrections staff will work with them to prepare a release plan. A release plan is intended to help the offender readjust to moving back into the community. Corrections staff start the work of preparing the offender to go back to the community before they leave custody. For this work to be successful, it is important to continue the efforts in the community. Research and experience shows gradual release, with supervision, can be successful in helping offenders settle back into society.

Summary and conclusion:

This report is a vehicle for conversation on committee work plan item 2C. Released offenders from Prince George Regional Correction Centre and return to their home community. BC Corrections likely encourages individuals to build a transition plan that is assessed as having the best chance for success to avoid recidivism, this may include return to support networks in the community of origin. However, this may not be the case for all individuals based on circumstance. Further, resources to support the transition plan and the typical content of a transition plan would be best commented on by BC Corrections.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric Depenau, Director of Administrative Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024/09/24