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**CORRECTIONAL SERVICE** CANADA



## SPECIAL REPORT

# Volume 1: Children and the Mother-Child Program: Findings from the 2025 Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire

**2026 - N° SR-26-02**

Cat. No.: PS83-8/2026-1E-PDF  
ISBN: 978-0-662-84961-2



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**Volume 1: Children and the Mother-Child Program: Findings from the 2025  
Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire**

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**2026**

## Table of contents

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table of contents .....                                                       | 3  |
| List of tables.....                                                           | 4  |
| Background.....                                                               | 5  |
| Purpose .....                                                                 | 5  |
| Overview.....                                                                 | 5  |
| Results.....                                                                  | 7  |
| Mother-Child Program .....                                                    | 11 |
| Summary of Findings .....                                                     | 14 |
| References .....                                                              | 15 |
| Appendix A: 2025 Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire ..... | 16 |

List of tables

Table 1: Participant demographics..... 7

Table 2: Number of minor children that participants have..... 8

Table 3: Participants’ contact with minor children while in prison.....9

Table 4: Reasons why questionnaire respondents with minor children did not apply to the Mother-Child Program (MCP)..... 11

Table 5: Challenges during the application process and while participating in the MCP.....12

## Background

In 1989, the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women was established to examine the lives, experiences, and broader social context of women serving federal sentences in Canada. As part of this initiative, the Task Force commissioned a national survey of all federally sentenced women (Shaw et al., 1991). Two decades later, the Research Branch revisited this work in *Twenty Years Later: Revisiting the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women* (Barrett et al., 2010). That report drew on findings from a comprehensive questionnaire that was administered in the fall of 2007 to individuals incarcerated in women's institutions, covering areas such as health and well-being, interpersonal relationships, education and employment, correctional environments, community connections and release, and programming. The findings highlighted changes in women's corrections within the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) since the completion of the national survey in 1991.

## Purpose

More than 15 years have passed since the 2007 questionnaire, and the correctional landscape has continued to evolve. The current study provides an updated assessment of the needs and experiences of federally incarcerated individuals in women's institutions. To achieve this, a new questionnaire was developed and administered at all women's correctional institutions, offering current insight into federal women's corrections and informing future policy and program development.

## Overview

A self-report questionnaire titled *The 2025 Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire* (see Appendix A) was administered to all individuals incarcerated in a federal women's institution or at the CSC-operated Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge (1). Data collection took place across all six institutions between September and November 2025, and all individuals in custody at these locations were invited to participate (2). At the time of administration, approximately 800 people were incarcerated in federal women's institutions. A convenience sampling approach was used, with participation based on individuals' willingness to complete the questionnaire (3). In total, 454 people participated, representing roughly 56% of the federal women's correctional institutional population.

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1 Individuals housed in Indigenous healing lodges under section 81 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA, 1992) were not eligible to participate (e.g., Buffalo Sage Wellness House and Eagle Women's Healing Lodge). As well, individuals located at the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon were not eligible to participate nor were individuals located at Institut Philippe-Pinel de Montreal.

2 Although all people in custody in women's institutions were invited to participate, the questionnaire was only available in English and in French.

3 People who wished to participate but had literacy challenges were still able to do so with assistance from the research study coordinator at each site.

The questionnaire included 62 items, consisting of both open- and closed-ended questions. Content areas reflected key components of women's corrections, including the Creating Choices principles (empowerment; meaningful and responsible choices; respect and dignity; supportive environment; shared responsibility) (4), education, employment, programming, children and the Mother-Child Program, family and community supports, institutional support and release planning, cultural supports and resources, and gender diversity. The questionnaire and its administration procedures received approval from a Community Research Ethics Board. This summary focuses on the children of individuals incarcerated in women's institutions and their experiences applying to, and participating in, the Mother-Child Program at CSC.

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4 For more information on the Creating Choices principles, please see: Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women (1990). Creating choices: Report of the Task Force on Federally Sentenced Women. Correctional Service of Canada.

## Results

Of the 454 participants, 183 (40.3%) reported being the parent of at least one minor child. An additional 60 participants (13.2%) either chose not to answer or did not provide a response. Accordingly, the analyses presented below focus on the 183 participants who identified as having at least one minor child. Among the 183 participants, nearly half identified as Indigenous (n = 90; 49.2%) and 76 identified as White (41.5%). Most participants indicated that their current security level was medium (n = 111; 60.7%) and were serving a sentence of 5 years or less (n = 110; 60.1%). The largest proportions of participants were from Grand Valley Institution (GVI; n = 59; 32.2%) and Edmonton Institution for Women (EIFW; n = 51; 27.9%). Notably, 16 participants identified as either gender diverse or Two-Spirit (8.7%). See Table 1 for a detailed breakdown of participant demographics.

**Table 1. Participant demographics (N = 183).**

| Demographic information                    | n  | %    |
|--------------------------------------------|----|------|
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>                      |    |      |
| Indigenous                                 | 90 | 49.2 |
| White                                      | 76 | 41.5 |
| Other/missing                              | 17 | 9.3  |
| <b>Gender Diverse</b>                      | 7  | 3.8  |
| <b>Two-Spirit</b>                          | 9  | 4.9  |
| <b>Age</b>                                 |    |      |
| Under 25                                   | 6  | 3.3  |
| 25 to 34 years old                         | 82 | 44.8 |
| 35 to 44 years old                         | 83 | 45.4 |
| 45 and older                               | 12 | 6.5  |
| <b>Identify as having a disability (a)</b> | 28 | 15.3 |
| <b>Location</b>                            |    |      |
| Nova Institution                           | 20 | 10.9 |
| Joliette Institution                       | 20 | 10.9 |
| Grand Valley Institution                   | 59 | 32.2 |
| Edmonton Institution for women             | 51 | 27.9 |

|                                  |     |      |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|
| <b>Fraser Valley Institution</b> | 15  | 8.2  |
| <b>Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge</b> | 18  | 9.8  |
| <b>Security Level (b)</b>        |     |      |
| <b>Minimum</b>                   | 56  | 30.6 |
| <b>Medium</b>                    | 111 | 60.7 |
| <b>Maximum</b>                   | 15  | 8.2  |
| <b>Sentence Length (c)</b>       |     |      |
| <b>5 years or less</b>           | 110 | 60.1 |
| <b>6 to 10 years</b>             | 40  | 21.9 |
| <b>11 years or more</b>          | 12  | 6.6  |
| <b>Indeterminate</b>             | 19  | 10.4 |

Note. (a) When asked if identified as having a disability, 25 participants indicated that they preferred not to answer or did not know (13.7%). (b) One participant had missing information on security level. (c) Two participants had missing information on sentence length.

Participants reported having between one and seven minor children ( $M = 2.26$ ;  $SD = 1.24$ ; median = 2.00). Notably, the number of minor children were missing for 39 participants (21.3%). When disaggregating by Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, the mean number of minor children for Indigenous participants was 2.35 ( $SD = 1.31$ ; median = 2.00; range = 1-7), whereas for non-Indigenous participants the mean number of minor children for Indigenous participants was 2.21 ( $SD = 1.15$ ; median = 2.00; range = 1-5; see Table 2).

**Table 2. Number of minor children that participants have.**

| <b>Minor children</b>     | <b>Total Sample<br/>(N = 183)</b> | <b>Total Sample<br/>(N = 183)</b> | <b>Indigenous<br/>(N = 90)</b> | <b>Indigenous<br/>(N = 90)</b> | <b>Non-Indigenous<br/>(N = 90)</b> | <b>Non-Indigenous<br/>(N = 90)</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Number of children</b> | n                                 | %                                 | n                              | %                              | n                                  | %                                  |
| <b>One child</b>          | 49                                | 26.8                              | 26                             | 28.9                           | 21                                 | 23.3                               |
| <b>Two children</b>       | 41                                | 22.4                              | 18                             | 20.0                           | 23                                 | 25.6                               |



|                              |    |      |    |      |    |      |
|------------------------------|----|------|----|------|----|------|
| <b>Three children</b>        | 31 | 16.9 | 18 | 20.0 | 13 | 14.4 |
| <b>Four children</b>         | 15 | 8.2  | 8  | 8.9  | 7  | 7.8  |
| <b>Five or more children</b> | 8  | 4.4  | 0  | 0    | 0  | 0    |

Note. Missing responses from 39 participants (21.3%); as such percentages do not add up to 100%. Missing responses from three participants on Indigenous status. For Indigenous participants, missing responses made up 16.7% (n = 15) and for non-Indigenous participants, missing responses made up 25.6% (n = 23). Cells with frequency counts of less than 5 are suppressed (represented by 0).

Participants were asked about contact with their minor children since entering prison. The most common response was weekly contact (n = 51/183; 27.9%), followed by daily contact (n = 41/183; 22.4%). However, non-Indigenous participants were more likely to have no contact with their minor children in comparison to Indigenous participants. See Table 3 for a breakdown of responses for Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants.

When asked whether they had experienced challenges maintaining contact with their minor children, over half of participants responded 'Yes' (n = 102; 55.7%), and an additional 25 participants (13.7%) responded 'Somewhat.' Among those who reported experiencing challenges (i.e., responded 'Yes' or 'Somewhat'), the most commonly identified challenges included (5): cost of communication (n = 51/127; 40.2%), location of institution (n = 48/127; 37.8%), transportation (n = 47/127; 37.0%), cost of caregiver travel (n = 41/127; 32.3%), coordination with current caregiver (n = 41/127; 32.3%), accommodation (n = 35/127; 27.6%), emotional challenges (n = 31/127; 24.4%), and institution-related challenges (n = 27/127; 21.3%). Importantly, 44 participants (34.6%) also reported other challenges, including technology-related challenges and access to video and phone, and application/approval process for visitor list.

**Table 3. Participants' contact with minor children while in prison.**

| <b>Participants' contact with minor children</b> | <b>Total Sample (N = 183)</b> | <b>Total Sample (N = 183)</b> | <b>Indigenous (N = 90)</b> | <b>Indigenous (N = 90)</b> | <b>Non-Indigenous (N = 90)</b> | <b>Non-Indigenous (N = 90)</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Degree of contact</b>                         | n                             | %                             | n                          | %                          | n                              | %                              |
| <b>Daily</b>                                     | 41                            | 22.4                          | 23                         | 25.6                       | 18                             | 20.0                           |
| <b>Weekly</b>                                    | 51                            | 27.9                          | 28                         | 31.1                       | 23                             | 25.6                           |

5 Note that responses are not mutually exclusive. Participants could identify more than one challenge.

|                          |    |      |    |      |    |      |
|--------------------------|----|------|----|------|----|------|
| <b>Monthly</b>           | 23 | 14.1 | 15 | 16.7 | 8  | 8.9  |
| <b>Yearly</b>            | 0  | 0    | 0  | 0    | 0  | 0    |
| <b>None</b>              | 37 | 20.2 | 12 | 13.3 | 23 | 25.6 |
| <b>Other</b>             | 35 | 19.1 | 13 | 14.4 | 22 | 24.4 |
| <b>Prefer not to say</b> | 13 | 7.1  | 6  | 6.7  | 7  | 7.8  |

Note. Response options are not mutually exclusive. Participants may select more than one response option. Missing responses from three participants on Indigenous status. Missing responses for 20 participants (10.9%), including 14 missing responses among Indigenous participants (15.6%) and five missing responses among non-Indigenous participants (5.6%). Cells with frequency counts of less than 5 are suppressed (represented by 0).

Participants were asked about how important it is for them to have custody of their minor child(ren) upon release. Over three-quarters of participants indicated that it was very important to have custody of their minor child(ren) upon release (n = 138; 75.4%) and nine participants indicated that it was somewhat important (n = 9; 4.9%). Only five participants indicated that it was not at all important to have custody of their minor child(ren) upon release (2.7%). When asked about whether they had specific worries related to their minor child(ren) upon release, the most commonly reported worries were (6): emotional challenges (n = 76; 41.5%), accommodations (n = 75; 41.0%), getting to know their child(ren) (n = 74; 40.4%), financial support (n = 72; 39.3%), and parenting skills (n = 35; 19.1%). Less than a quarter of participants reported having no worries (n = 42; 23.0%).

Participants with minor children were asked about whether they had applied to the Mother-Child Program (MCP) while at CSC. Overall, 52 participants had applied to participate in the MCP (n = 52/183; 28.4%), and 121 participants did not apply to the MCP (n = 121/183; 66.1%). Notably, ten participants did not respond to this question (n = 10/183; 5.5%). Among the 121 participants who did not apply, one-third indicated that they did not apply because they were not eligible (n = 41/121; 33.9%). In addition, many indicated that they did not apply because they did not want to remove their children from their community (n = 37/121; 30.6%), or because they felt as though prison was not a place for children (n = 31/121; 25.6%). Importantly, thirty-one participants (25.6%) indicated that they did not apply to the MCP because of 'other' reasons, which included: children are too old, they are unaware of how to apply, they are unaware that the program existed, children live too far away, and/or the MCP is not available in their institution. Moreover, no participants indicated that they had withdrawn their application to the MCP. See Table 4 for a list of reasons why participants did not apply to the MCP.

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6 Note that responses are not mutually exclusive. Participants could identify more than one response.

**Table 4. Reasons why questionnaire respondents with minor children did not apply to the Mother-Child Program (MCP).**

| Reasons for not applying to the MCP                                 | n  | %    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|
| Not eligible to participate in MCP                                  | 41 | 33.9 |
| Did not want to remove child(ren) from their community              | 37 | 30.6 |
| Felt as though prison is not a place for child(ren)                 | 31 | 25.6 |
| Felt as though child(ren) would not be safe with them in prison     | 11 | 9.1  |
| Child Welfare Agency and/or Case Management Team was not supportive | 8  | 6.7  |
| Application was not completed on time                               | 0  | 0    |
| No transportation for the child(ren)                                | 6  | 5.0  |
| Chose to withdraw their application                                 | 0  | 0    |
| Limited program availability                                        | 9  | 7.4  |
| Other reasons (1)                                                   | 31 | 25.6 |

Note. Response options are not mutually exclusive. Participants could select multiple responses. Denominator is N = 121. Of the 121 participants who did not apply to the MCP, responses on reasons why they did not apply are missing for 23 participants (19.0%). Cells with frequency counts of less than 5 are suppressed (represented by 0). (1) Other reasons include children are too old to participate, unaware of how to apply or that the program existed, not available in the institution they are located at, and children live too far (location challenges).

## Mother-Child Program

The MCP helps to maintain the mother-child relationship by allowing eligible incarcerated mothers to live with their children full-time (under age 5) or participate in part-time on-site visitation (under age 7). The program offers additional bonding opportunities such as family visits, temporary absences for parental responsibilities, recording storybooks, and pre- and post-natal services (7). Among those who applied to the MCP (n = 52), just under half were from Grand Valley Institution (GVI; n = 23/52; 44.2%), 14 were from Joliette Institution (JI: 26.9%), and seven were from Edmonton Institution For Women

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<sup>7</sup> For more information on the MCP, see: Correctional Service Canada. (2025). *Commissioner's Directive 768 – Institutional Mother-Child Program*. <https://www.canada.ca/en/correctional-service/corporate/acts-regulations-policy/commissioners-directives/768.html>

(EIFW; 13.5%). Among those who applied to the MCP, 23 identified as White (44.2%) and 20 identified as Indigenous (38.5%). Among the 52 participants who indicated that they had applied to the MCP, it was found that nine had participated in the full-time on-site component (n = 9/52; 17.3%), six had participated in the part-time on-site component (n = 6/52; 11.5%), six had participated in the PFV with no accompanying adult (n = 6/52; 11.5%), and fourteen had participated in 'other bonding services' (n = 14/52; 26.9%). Specifically, participants who had participated in 'other bonding services' indicated that they participated in phone calls and video calls with their child(ren) as well as a storybook program and lullaby project.

Participants were asked to indicate how they became aware of the MCP. Over a third of participants indicated that they heard about the MCP through the MCP coordinator (n = 19/52; 36.5%) and another third (n = 19/52; 36.5%) indicated that they heard about the MCP through their peers/other incarcerated people. Just under 20% of participants heard about the program from a poster or flyer (n = 10/52; 19.2%), 17.3% heard about the program from their parole officer (n = 9/52), and 11.5% heard about the program from their inmate handbook (n = 6/52). Importantly, 14 participants (26.9%) indicated that they heard about the program through other sources including lawyers, community organizations or other advocates, social program officers, and/or primary workers.

Among those who applied to participate in the MCP (including the full and part-time on-site components, the PFV, and other bonding services), just under a third indicated that they experienced difficulties/challenges with the application process (n = 17/52; 32.7%). Other challenges included having difficulty providing for children financially, difficulty transporting children to the institution for regular visits, and limited availability in the private family visit (PFV) units (see Table 5 for more details). Similarly, participants were asked about challenges they faced when taking part in the program. Most commonly, participants reported difficulties in the institution (n = 22/52; 42.3%) and difficulties providing for their child while in the program (n = 12/52; 23.1%; see Table 5 for more details).

**Table 5. Challenges during the application process and while participating in the MCP**

| <b>Challenges faced during the application process (1)</b>                           | <b>n</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Difficulty with the application process itself</b>                                | 17       | 32.7     |
| <b>Difficulty providing for child(ren) financially, emotionally, or physically</b>   | 12       | 23.1     |
| <b>Difficulty accessing community support</b>                                        | 9        | 17.3     |
| <b>Challenges with transporting child(ren) to the institution for regular visits</b> | 15       | 28.8     |
| <b>Challenges maintaining phone communication</b>                                    | 6        | 11.5     |
| <b>Challenges related to limited availability of the private family visit units</b>  | 13       | 25.0     |
| <b>Challenges faced while participating in the program (2)</b>                       | <b>n</b> | <b>%</b> |

|                                                                           |    |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------|
| <b>Difficulty providing for child(ren) while in the program</b>           | 12 | 23.1 |
| <b>Difficulty with community support while taking part in the program</b> | 8  | 15.4 |
| <b>Difficulty in the institution while in the program</b>                 | 22 | 42.3 |
| <b>Other difficulties while in the program (3)</b>                        | 15 | 28.8 |

Note. (1) Missing responses from 7 participants (13.5%) in this section. Other challenges reported by less than 5 participants include: challenges related to lack of preparation before birth, administrative delays of the MCP application, and limited access to the MCP due to capacity issues. (2) Missing responses from 8 participants (15.4%) in this section. (3) Other difficulties were reported, with the most common response seeing that the program was not running or the program had to stop running due to lack of space for kids/capacity issues/population pressures.

A total of 35 participants responded to the question about whether the MCP was beneficial for themselves and their children (17 participants did not respond or were not eligible to answer because they had not participated in the MCP). Among the 35 respondents, 25 (71.4%) reported that the MCP was beneficial for their child(ren). Participants most commonly stated that the MCP helped them maintain—and in some cases strengthen—their bond with their child(ren). They also noted that the program had a positive effect on their child(ren)'s development and overall well-being. Among the 35 respondents, 24 (68.6%) reported that the MCP was beneficial for them and five respondents (14.2%) indicated that the program was somewhat beneficial for them. Participants described several reasons why they found the program beneficial. They reported improvements in their mental health, overall well-being, and sense of self, including increased self-esteem. Many also noted that the program helped them maintain hope, motivation, and a positive outlook. In addition, participants stated that they gained valuable parenting knowledge and skills, and that the program supported them in maintaining a strong connection or bond with their child(ren).

A total of 43 participants responded to the question about whether there are problems with the MCP. Nine participants either did not respond or were not eligible to answer because they had not participated in any components of the program. Among those who responded, opinions were fairly evenly divided: 39.5% (n = 17/43) reported that yes, there are problems with the MCP; 30.2% (n = 13/43) reported no problems; 30.2% (n = 13/43) indicated that the program has some problems. Participants identified several issues with the MCP. These included capacity limitations at the site level, such as too few program spaces and limited access to the PFV. They also described a slow application and approval process, which creates delays for mothers seeking to participate. In addition, participants noted communication challenges, including difficulty reaching MCP coordinators and limited access to support or guidance. Participants emphasized that the program should be more widely available, particularly for mothers who are not new parents but still have young children. Some also raised concerns about the proximity of the MCP to other people in custody, noting concerns around the general location of the MCP living unit within the institution.

## Summary of Findings

Results from The 2025 Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire show that a large proportion (40%) of people who are federally sentenced and housed in women's institutions have at least one minor child. While many participants reported having daily or weekly contact with their children, significant challenges in maintaining contact were also identified. The most commonly reported challenges were the cost of communication and the location of the institution (including transportation difficulties that limit children's ability to visit the institution). These challenges create obstacles for mothers trying to stay connected with their children during incarceration. Notably, almost all participants who had minor children (80%) indicated that it was very important or somewhat important to have custody of their minor children upon release. This underscores the need to maintain and ideally strengthen the mother-child bond during incarceration. Evidence has demonstrated that ensuring reliable, affordable communication between mothers and their children is critical for maintaining the mother-child bond, promoting family stability, and supporting successful reunification post release (Loonstyn & Galley, 2023; Mitchell et al., 2016). Furthermore, a study conducted by CSC that examined the association between participation in visitation and post-release outcomes found that visits from children was associated with decreased likelihood of readmission (Derkzen et al., 2009).

Among participants with minor children, just over a quarter had applied to participate in the MCP. Participants most commonly reported learning about the MCP through either the MCP coordinator or through other people who are incarcerated in the institution. It is important that people entering women's institutions are aware of the MCP and that communication around the MCP is delivered in a way that is culturally relevant and trauma-informed. Research suggests that when communication is not culturally responsive, there is a higher likelihood of misunderstanding and decreased program comprehension (thus potential decrease in program participation; Edio, 2023).

One-third of participants who applied to the MCP identified challenges with the application process and over one-third of participants who participated in the MCP indicated that there were problems with the program. Participants reported a desire for further development in terms of increasing capacity and availability of the program. Despite challenges, the majority of respondents who participated in the MCP indicated that it was beneficial to both them and their children, especially with respect to maintaining the mother-child bond. This aligns with previous research which has found that programs in correctional institutions that allow children to reside with their mothers helps to maintain or promote healthy bonds between mother and child(ren) and encourages self-esteem and confidence (Carlson, 2001). Given the limited body of literature on MCPs, there is a clear need for research to examine the short- and long-term impacts and associated outcomes of MCP participation.

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# Appendix A: 2025 Creating Choices and Women's Corrections Questionnaire

## Invitation to Participate

You are invited to complete a questionnaire being administered by the Research Branch and the Women Offender Sector at National Headquarters that focuses on your experiences with women's corrections.

## Purpose of Questionnaire

The purpose of the questionnaire is to hear directly from people incarcerated in women's institutions regarding experiences and perspectives on programs and services offered. This includes questions focusing on the Creating Choices principles, education and employment, community supports, family and children, institutional environment, release planning, and cultural supports and resources. The results of this questionnaire will help indicate which areas of women's corrections require further improvement.

## Why Have I Been Asked to Complete the Questionnaire?

We are asking people who are currently serving a sentence in a women's federal institution to participate so we can collect as much information as possible. Your views are important to us and any feedback is greatly appreciated.

## What Am I Being Asked to Do?

You will be asked to fill out a questionnaire. The questions should take approximately one hour to answer. If participation in the study requires an absence from a program assignment, that hour will be calculated as worked hours. If you require additional time to complete the questionnaire, please let the study coordinator know and additional time will be provided.

## Risks/Benefits

Some of the questions include sensitive material and may cause you to think about things that have happened in your life that were upsetting. If you feel upset, we ask that you please seek assistance from a staff member, an institutional psychologist, an Elder, an Elder helper, or peer support (for example, a Peer Mentor who is trained and prepared to assist you).

There is no immediate direct benefit to you participating in this study. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us identify key areas that are lacking or need improvement within the correctional system. This information will help us improve the services that Correctional Service Canada (CSC) provides to people in custody in women's institutions.

## Participation is Voluntary

You will be given an hour to complete the questionnaire. However, your participation is completely voluntary. This means that it is up to you to decide if you want to be a part of this study, and you can choose whether to answer all or any of the questions in that hour. You will not be penalized if you choose not to participate. There is no reward if you choose to complete the questionnaire. If you participate, you can choose not to answer some questions. You also have the right to stop completing the questionnaire at any point without any negative consequence.

## Withdrawal of participation



You have the right to withdraw your consent up until your questionnaire is double sealed and handed in. There is a check box on the front page that you can select if you would like to have your questionnaire destroyed and your answers will not be counted. In either case no onsite staff or residents will be able to see your answers.

#### Participation is Private

Although we will be asking for some basic demographic information, we will not be collecting information that can be used to directly identify you (i.e., we will not be collecting your name, date of birth, FPS number, etc). As such, any responses that you provide will not be linked back to you and will not be included in your CSC file. Your responses will not be seen by institutional staff or other residents. Only staff from the Research Branch at National Headquarters will see your responses. The completed questionnaires will be securely stored at the Research Branch and only accessible to people involved in the research study. Completed questionnaires will be stored for seven years before being securely disposed. Electronic datasets will be stored on a secure drive only accessible to the research team.

#### How Will the Collected Questionnaire Information be Used?

The results of this study will be published in an academic journal and on the CSC website in the form of research reports that are available to the public and participants upon request. These results will also be shared with the Native Women's Association of Canada as well as the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. Results will be made available to you in the form of an infographic or summary document upon completion of the study (for example, a fact sheet posted in common areas within the institution highlighting key overall findings).

Use of questionnaire information may occur at a later time point to answer specific questions pertaining to women's corrections. As well, this information may be used at a later date to examine changes and improvements over time within women's corrections.

#### How Do I Submit my Completed Questionnaire?

Your questionnaire will be sent directly to the Research Branch at National Headquarters and will not be shared with anyone at your institution. Once you have completed the questionnaire, please return it to the study coordinator at your site, sealed in the two envelopes provided.

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us!

## Study Consent

Please read the following carefully and complete to show that you understand your rights as a voluntary participant in this study.

I understand that this questionnaire is examining the experiences, views, and concerns of people serving sentences in women's federal correctional institutions. I also understand that some of the questions may be sensitive or upsetting.

☐ Yes      ☐ No

I am aware that I can refuse to answer any questions and will not be penalized if I choose to stop participating. I understand that I will not be rewarded for participating in this questionnaire. I also understand that I cannot withdraw from participation after submitting my completed questionnaire to the study coordinator.

☐ Yes      ☐ No

I understand that my answers will be kept private and will only be used for the purposes explained above. I also understand that the responses of all participants will be combined in a written report and my individual responses cannot be identified.

☐ Yes      ☐ No

I understand and agree to the use of my responses on this questionnaire.

☐ Yes      ☐ No

I understand and agree to the use of direct quotes in the final report and that all included quotes will not be identifiable.

☐ Yes      ☐ No

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Community Research Ethics Board. If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in our information, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during this project, you may contact the Chair, Community Research Ethics Board, at: Centre for Community Based Research | Attn: Community Research Ethics Office | c/o Conrad Grebel University College | 140 Westmount Road North, Waterloo ON N2L3G5 or by email: [creoadmin@communityresearchethics.com](mailto:creoadmin@communityresearchethics.com)

## 2025 Questionnaire on Creating Choices and Women's corrections

### Demographic Information

How much time in total have you spent federally incarcerated in your lifetime?

YEARS:       MONTHS: \_\_ \_\_\_\_

How long have you been residing at your current institution?

YEARS:       MONTHS: \_\_\_\_\_

3) How long is the sentence you are currently serving?

Less than 2 years

- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11+ years
- ☐ life sentence

4) How much time have you served on your current sentence?

YEARS:    \_ MONTHS: \_ \_\_\_\_\_

5) What are the dates of your day and full parole eligibility:

- Day parole eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_

- Full parole eligibility: \_\_\_\_\_

6) What is your current security level?

- ☐ Minimum
- ☐ Medium
- ☐ Maximum

7) Are you...? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Inuit/Inuk
- ☐ Métis
- ☐ First Nations
- ☐ White

- ☐ South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Latin American
- ☐ Southeast Asian (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai)
- ☐ West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan)
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Other group (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

8) Do you self-identify as...

- ☐ Cisgender woman
- ☐ Transgender woman
- ☐ Cisgender man
- ☐ Transgender man
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Two-Spirit
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Do you identify as a person with a disability?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

10) How old are you?

- ☐ under 25
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65 or older

11) Have you heard of the five principles of Creating Choices (i.e., empowerment, meaningful and responsible choices, respect and dignity, supportive environment, and shared responsibility)?

☐ Yes

Somewhat

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

Please review the five principles of Creating Choices:

**Empowerment:** increased self-esteem enhances the ability to accept and express responsibility for actions taken and future choices. Accepting and expressing responsibility for oneself promotes strength, good self-esteem, and confidence especially in controlling one's own life. For example, setting meaningful and achievable goals and/or making important decisions.

**Meaningful and responsible choices:** increased choices both for people who are federally sentenced and for those helping and supporting people who are federally sentenced leads to a more positive future. Responsible choices allow people to gain control over their own lives. For example, feeling supported in making responsible choices.

**Respect and dignity:** mutual respect is needed among people who are federally sentenced, among staff, and between those who are federally sentenced and staff, to gain both self-respect and respect for others. Respect for oneself and for others is necessary, to take responsibility for the future. For example, feeling that efforts are made to understand and respond to people's different background and individual needs.

**Supportive environment:** an environment that is positive and mutually supportive that encourages the self-esteem, empowerment, dignity and respect for oneself and others. The quality of an environment can promote physical health, psychological health, personal development, and a meaningful life for people who are federally sentenced. For example, residing in a facility that is designed to support mental and physical needs.

**Shared responsibility:** development of support systems and continuity of service enables people who are federally sentenced to take responsibility for their lives and be more connected with their communities. Independence and self-reliance will allow people who are federally sentenced to take responsibility for their past, present, and future actions. For example, having opportunities to build a support network.

12) Based on your experience with CSC, how well does your current institution as a whole support each of the five principles of Creating Choices?

(For each of the five Creating Choice principles, please select only one response: Always, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely, or Never)

|                                    | Always | Usually | Sometimes | Rarely | Never |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Empowerment                        |        |         |           |        |       |
| Meaningful and responsible choices |        |         |           |        |       |
| Respect and dignity                |        |         |           |        |       |
| Supportive environment             |        |         |           |        |       |
| Shared responsibility              |        |         |           |        |       |

If you wish, please take an opportunity to tell us more about how you rated the institution's support of the principles of Creating Choices:

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13) Do you feel that these five Creating Choices principles are important today for women's corrections:

a) Empowerment?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe/it depends
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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b) Meaningful and responsible choices?

- ☐ Yes

☐ Maybe/it depends

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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c) Respect and dignity?

☐ Yes

☐ Maybe/it depends

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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d) Supportive environment?

☐ Yes

☐ Maybe/it depends

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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e) Shared responsibility?

☐ Yes

☐ Maybe/it depends

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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## Section 2: Education, Employment, and Programs

14) What was the highest level of schooling that you completed before you began serving your current sentence?

- ☐ Some middle school (up to and including grade 8 but not completing grade 8. In Quebec, this corresponds to primary and secondary education, however, just up to secondary 2, but not completing it)
- ☐ Completed middle school (completed grade 8. If in Quebec, completed secondary 2)
- ☐ Some high school (grades 9-12 or 13/OAC but not completing high school. In Quebec, secondary 3 to 5, but not completing secondary education)
- ☐ Completed high school (completed grade 12 or 13/OAC. If in Quebec, completed secondary education)
- ☐ GED or high school equivalency certificate
- ☐ Some university/college
- ☐ Completed university/college
- ☐ Other (please specify):

15) Are you currently employed or have you previously been employed while at your current institution?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what type of work assignment did you participate in? (select all that apply)

- ☐ CORCAN shop
- ☐ Non-CORCAN facility
- ☐ Work release
- ☐ Cleaning
- ☐ Kitchen/cooking
- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ Inmate committee
- ☐ Peer Mentor
- ☐ Peer Advocate
- ☐ Community Services and Stores
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

16) What type of work would you like to do upon release? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Services (e.g., retail, food service, cleaner, esthetician)
- ☐ Food and culinary arts
- ☐ Administration, finance, and entrepreneurship
- ☐ Construction and general labour
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Manufacturing and transportation
- ☐ Information Technology
- ☐ Data analytics
- ☐ Social services/helping sector/peer-based mentorship
- ☐ Graphic design
- ☐ Marketing/sales
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Textiles
- ☐ Managerial/executive
- ☐ Working on the land (i.e., hunting, trapping)
  - ☐ Apprenticeship/Trades (e.g., concrete, electrical, masonry, plumbing, welding, mechanics)
- ☐ Homemaker/parent
- Child-care provider
- Teacher/educator
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

17) What kind of course(s) would be useful to you to help gain employment in the community? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Basic education (i.e., Adult Basic Education, language)
- ☐ Financial Literacy
- ☐ Self-employment courses or courses for building businesses
- ☐ On-the-job training
- Apprenticeship/Trades (e.g., concrete, electrical, masonry, plumbing, welding, mechanics)
- ☐ Vocational training/certification (e.g., First Aid, WHMIS, working at heights, food, culinary arts, esthetician, hair)
- ☐ Business skills
- ☐ Fundamental computer skills (typing, saving documents, using the internet)
- ☐ Digital software training (Microsoft word, Microsoft Excel, adobe)
- ☐ Soft skills (e.g., essential employability skills: communication, time management, writing)

Higher education (e.g., college, university)

- ☐ Educational programs for or about Indigenous peoples, culture, language, etc.
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify):

18) Have you accessed the services of a Peer Mentor at your institution?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

If yes, how did you hear about the Peer Mentorship Program at your institution? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Social Program Officer
- ☐ Correctional Program Officer
- ☐ Behavioural Interventionist
- ☐ Primary Worker
- ☐ Parole Officer
- ☐ Peers or other incarcerated people
- ☐ Inmate Handbook
- ☐ Poster/flyer or other promotional material
- ☐ Community organization
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

19) Have you been a peer mentor before?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

If yes, how would you describe that experience?

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Section 3: Children and the Mother Child Program

20) Are you the parent of minor children, or are you currently pregnant?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

→ If yes, how many minor children do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE CHILDREN, PLEASE SKIP AHEAD TO SECTION 4 (Page 12)

21) Have you applied to the Mother-Child Program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If you did not apply to the Mother-Child Program, please explain why:

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NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT APPLIED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOTHER-CHILD PROGRAM, PLEASE SKIP AHEAD TO QUESTION #30 (page 10)

22) How did you hear about the Mother-Child Program? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Parole Officer
- ☐ Mother-Child Program Coordinator
- ☐ Primary Worker
- ☐ Peers or other incarcerated people
- ☐ Inmate Handbook
- ☐ Poster/flyer or other promotional material
- ☐ Community organization
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

23) Have you participated in the on-site component of the Mother-Child Program? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Yes – Full time
- ☐ Yes – Part time
- ☐ Yes – during private family visits with no accompanying adult

☐ No

24) Have you participated in the “other bonding services” component of the Program?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

If yes, please describe:

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25) Did you face any of the following challenges to parenting during the application process (before your child was born/approved to enter the institution)? (select all that apply)

☐ There were no challenges

☐ Difficulty with the application process

☐ Difficulty to provide for my child(ren) financially, emotionally, or physically

☐ Difficulty accessing community support

☐ Lack of preparation before birth (appointments, birth plan, building a support system)

☐ Difficulty transporting my child(ren) to the institution for regular visits

☐ Difficulty maintaining phone communication

☐ Limited availability in the Private Family Visit (PFV) Units (part-time participants only)

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

→ If you indicated that there was limited availability in the PFV units, please explain why there was limited availability (if known):

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26) Did you face any of the following challenges while taking part in the Mother-Child Program?

(select all that apply)

☐ There were no challenges

- ☐ Difficulty to provide for my child(ren) financially, emotionally, or physically
- ☐ Difficulty accessing community support
- ☐ Difficulties in the institution
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

27) Do you believe that participation in the Mother-Child Program was beneficial for your child?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain:

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28) Do you believe that participation in the Mother-Child Program was beneficial for you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain:

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29) Do you think there are problems with the Mother-Child Program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

→ Please explain:

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30) If you have not taken part in the Mother-Child program, what are the reasons for why you did not participate? (Select all that apply):

- ☐ I am not eligible for the program
- ☐ I do not want to remove my child[ren] from their community
- ☐ I do not think that prison is a place for children
- ☐ I do not think my child[ren] will be safe with me in prison
- ☐ Child Welfare Agency not supportive
- ☐ Child Welfare Agency supportive, but not the Case Management Team
- ☐ The application process was not completed on time
- ☐ No transportation for the child(ren) (part-time participants only)
- ☐ Withdrawal of application
- ☐ Limited availability
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

→ If you selected "Withdrawal of application", please explain why you withdrew your application:

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31) How much contact have you had with your minor child(ren) since you have come to prison?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18). If response differs by child, you can select all that apply.

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly

- ☐ Yearly
- ☐ They live with me as part of the Mother-Child program
- ☐ None
- ☐ Prefer not to answer
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

32) Have you experienced any challenges with keeping in contact with your minor child(ren)?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

If so, what kind of challenges have you faced? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Accommodation (e.g., hotels or access to Private Family Visits)
- ☐ Location of institution
- ☐ Coordination with current caregiver
- ☐ Costs of caregiver travel
- ☐ Cost of communication (e.g., telephone or internet)
- ☐ Institution-related (e.g., lockdowns, COVID-19 restrictions)
- ☐ Emotional (e.g., children get upset)
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

33) How important is it for you to have custody of your minor child(ren) upon release?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18)

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not at all important
- ☐ Not applicable

Please explain:

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34) Do you have any other worries about your minor child(ren) upon your release?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18) (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Financial support
- ☐ Accommodation/housing
- ☐ Access to the children/custody
- ☐ Getting to know them again
- ☐ Emotional challenges
- ☐ Parenting skills
- ☐ I don't have any worries
- ☐ Other (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 4: Family and Community Supports

35) How much contact have you had with your family (excluding your minor children), friends or community supports since your incarceration?

(For this questionnaire, minor children refer to children under the age of 18)

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Yearly
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Specifically, who have you been in contact with? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Spouse/common-law/partner
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Relatives/extended family

- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Community advocacy group/representative/justice committee
- ☐ Elder(s) or Spiritual Advisor(s)
- ☐ Chaplain or spiritual leader
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Has this contact been through: (Select all that apply)

- ☐ In-person visits
- ☐ Private Family Visits (PFV)
- ☐ Family day at the institution
- ☐ Letters
- ☐ Telephone
- ☐ Video calls/virtual visits
- ☐ Temporary absence (ETA/UTA)
- ☐ Social event at the institution
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

36) How often do you receive in-person visits?

- ☐ Daily
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ 2-5 times per year
- ☐ 6-10 times per year
- ☐ Yearly
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Does not apply

37) What factors influence the frequency of in-person visits you receive? (select all that apply)

- ☐ Distance for my visitors to travel to the institution
- ☐ Transportation and/or accommodation costs for my family/friends/community supports
- ☐ The institutional environment/environment of the visiting area
- ☐ Visitor approval process

- ☐ Accessibility of the institution/visiting space for my family/friends/community supports
- ☐ The timing of visits (for example: visits take place in the daytime and visitor works full time)
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

38) Have you experienced any challenges to keeping in touch with family (excluding your minor children), friends, or community supports during your incarceration? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Costs (e.g., long distance calls, stamps and envelopes)
- ☐ Availability of Private Family Visits
- ☐ Institution-related (e.g., lockdowns, COVID-19 restrictions)
- ☐ Emotional difficulties
- ☐ Technological challenges (e.g., family has limited access to technology)
- ☐ Suspension of visits
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 5: Institutional Support and Release Planning

39) What is most important to you in a correctional institution? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Being as close to home as possible
- ☐ Being close to my social supports
- ☐ Being close to my children
- ☐ Being in a culturally responsive environment
- ☐ Having access to programs that I need
- ☐ Having access to supports and services in my official language of choice
- ☐ Having access to cultural supports
- ☐ Having access to employment and/or education programs of interest
- ☐ Being with people serving sentences like mine
- ☐ Feeling safe
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

40) Does your current institution meet the needs most important to you (identified in question 39)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat

- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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41) Do you feel safe and secure at the institution where you currently live?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ I don't know

Please explain:

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42) Do you feel that the information recorded in your correctional plan and reports accurately reflects your needs, who you are as a person, and your time in custody?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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43) Are you familiar with the inmate grievance process?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

☐ I am not sure

If so, how would you describe the inmate grievance process?

☐ Very good

☐ Good

☐ Acceptable

☐ Poor

☐ Very poor

☐ Unsure/haven't used before

Is there anything we should know about the process? Please explain:

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44) In preparation for release, what life skills would be of assistance to you to learn while incarcerated?

☐ Financial budgeting

☐ Cooking

☐ Banking

☐ Filing taxes

☐ Parenting

☐ Trauma counselling

☐ Creating a resume/completing a job application

☐ Business Planning/entrepreneurship

☐ Use of technology

☐ I am not sure

☐ None of the above

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

45) Do you think you will use community services once you are released (i.e., to find a job, to find accommodation)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

If yes, what community services will be important to you? (Select all that apply)

☐ Help finding a place to live

☐ Half-way house

- ☐ Help finding a job
- ☐ Training for a job
- ☐ Help with substance use and relapse prevention
- ☐ Help with mental health/mental wellness
- ☐ Parenting help
- ☐ Budgeting services
- ☐ Assistance starting own business
- ☐ Cultural ceremonies and events
- ☐ Other (please specify):

46) To your knowledge, are the community services you require available in the community you wish to be released to?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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47) Is it preferable to return to the community that you were living in before you were incarcerated (e.g., your home community)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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48) Have you worked with an Ethnocultural Liaison Officer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

If yes, has this person provided you with good information about what to expect upon release?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

If yes, has this person provided you with information about what community resources are available to you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Please read:

Section 81 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) allows an Indigenous community to provide correctional services to incarcerated Indigenous peoples. An Indigenous person in custody at CSC may be transferred to the care and custody of a facility in an Indigenous community. In addition, the Section 81 facility may supervise on day or full parole or statutory release. A Section 81 facility incorporated Indigenous values, Indigenous traditions, and Indigenous beliefs, as well as Indigenous concepts of justice and reconciliation. The approach to corrections is holistic and spiritual and programs include guidance and support from Elders and Indigenous communities.

Section 84 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) applies to people in custody who want to serve their eventual conditional or statutory release in an Indigenous community, or in an urban area with the support and direction of an Indigenous organization. It also applies to people who are subject to long-term supervision orders (LTSOs).

49) Were you advised of the Section 81 and/or 84 release options?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

50) Are you interested in Section 81 or 84 release options?

- ☐ Yes

- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

51) Have you worked with an Indigenous Community Liaison Officer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

If yes, has this person provided you with good information about what to expect upon release?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

If yes, has this person provided you with information about what community resources are available to you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

If yes, has this person linked you to an Indigenous community or your home community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

## Section 6: Cultural Supports and Resources

52) Do you feel that you have access to Indigenous Interventions within your site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable



53) Do you feel that you have access to Indigenous resources at your site?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

54) Do you feel that you have the opportunity to:

a) engage with an Elder/Spiritual Advisor/Elder Helper?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

b) participate in the Pathways Initiative?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

c) participate in Indigenous program streams?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure
- ☐ Not applicable

d) practice your culture?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

☐ Not applicable

55) Are you aware of the Indigenous Continuum of Care?

☐ Yes

☐ Somewhat

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

☐ Not applicable

56) Are you aware of the Pathways Initiative?

☐ Yes

☐ Somewhat

☐ No

☐ I am not sure

☐ Not applicable

57) What Indigenous activities do you engage in that support your overall well-being?

a) smudging:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable

b) prayer:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable

c) sweat lodge:

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable

d) other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

58) Overall, Do you feel that your current institution meets your spiritual needs?

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Usually
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never
- ☐ I am not sure

59) Is there anything else we should know about your experience with Indigenous Corrections:

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## Section 7: Gender Diversity

Please read:

Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has a duty to accommodate based on gender identity or gender expression, regardless of a person's anatomy (i.e., sex) or their gender/sex marker on their identification documents.

60) Does the institution where you currently live meet the needs of gender diverse federally incarcerated individuals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am not sure

Please explain:

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61) With respect to gender diversity, which areas do you believe requires improvement?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Use chosen first and/or middle name(s)
- ☐ Use of chosen pronoun(s)

- ☐ Search protocol
- ☐ Urinalysis protocol
- ☐ Access to private and safe showers and/or toilets
- ☐ Observation protocol
- ☐ Decontamination shower protocol
- ☐ Voluntary nudity protocol
- ☐ Medical escort protocol
- ☐ Type of facility requested
- ☐ Support from institutional staff
- ☐ Gender affirming clothing
- ☐ Gender affirming products (e.g., hygiene products, wigs)
- ☐ Other gender-related accommodation (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Please explain:

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## Section 8: General Improvements

What would you change or improve about your current institution to further support you and/or better align with the principles of Creating Choices?

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Thank you for your participation!