

Background to Resolution #11-1

Sustainable and fair funding for law enforcement is one of the most significant contemporary issues in Canadian public policing. Canadian Association of Police Boards is working diligently to ensure the topic remains a priority for the federal government and the 2011 resolution, *Support for the Coalition on Sustainable Public Policing* serves to reiterate its importance.

2010 Resolution CAPB: FEDERAL SUPPORT TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS local police agencies are providing policing services to airports, seaports and other homeland security initiatives which are Federal policing responsibilities; and

WHEREAS technology and the changing nature of crime is increasing the costs of policing beyond that of general inflation; and

WHEREAS provincial legislative changes such as amendments to the British Columbia *Police Act* will have an impact on municipal policing costs; and

WHEREAS local government taxation does not have the resources to fund the growing needs of police agencies in a sustainable and viable way; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Police Boards has called upon the Government of Canada in the form of past resolutions to make changes to the Federal share of policing costs in Canada including;

1. Resolution 06-12: Sharing of funding for Municipal Police Departments;
2. Resolution 07-04: Federal policy support for capital costs of law enforcement; and
3. Resolution 08-07: Sharing policing costs with the federal government
4. Resolution 09-01: Federal Funding – 2500 police officers

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Association of Police Boards call on the Government of Canada to develop a fair and sustainable funding model for both RCMP and Independent police

agencies in recognition of local law enforcement assistance to Federal policing initiatives and to augment increasing financial pressures on Local Government.

Background to Resolution #11-5

Supplementary Information:

Police service animals are more than just tools for law enforcement agencies. They are considered part of the law enforcement family; when one of them falls they are honoured much like a fallen officer. Canadian law recognizes the inherent risk that peace officers face and it should therefore also reflect the risk that these animals face.

Currently, there are no provisions in the *Criminal Code of Canada* or any other federal legislation that specifically addresses injuring or killing, or attempting to injure or kill, police service animals. While sec 446 of the *Criminal Code* contains animal cruelty provisions, these laws are limited in their scope and are generally not used in cases where police service animals are injured or killed.

Specific laws protecting police service animals have been successfully enacted in numerous states across the United States of America. Examples of such laws exist in:

- Kentucky
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nevada
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Texas

In each State, the law carries potential jail time and monetary fines. The laws address the killing of police service animals and most contain additional provisions for interfering with, harassing, or otherwise teasing the animals.

There is a demonstrated need for this legislation in Canada. In 2006, a Toronto Police Service horse, Brigadier, was killed in the line of duty.

Brigadier was struck during a deliberate hit and run incident. Brigadier suffered fatal injuries and was euthanized at the scene of the incident. The member riding Brigadier sustained serious but non-life threatening injuries. The accused was charged with:

- Dangerous operation of a vehicle causing bodily harm
- Failing to stop at the scene of an accident causing bodily harm

These charges were only related to the injuries sustained by the member and not to the death of the police horse.

Also in 2006, Vancouver Police Department (VPD) police service dog (PSD) Nitro was killed in the line of duty. When attempting to apprehend suspects in New Westminster, VPD members deployed PSD Nitro. Nitro was able to locate one of the suspects in a train yard and attempted to detain him. In an attempt to escape, the suspect jumped onto a moving train; however, Nitro was able to get a hold of the suspect's leg. In further attempts to escape and fight off Nitro, the suspect began swinging his leg. Witness accounts state that the suspect kicked his leg outwards and then swung it back towards the train. At this point Nitro lost his grip and fell underneath the train where he was crushed and died instantly. Had a similar incident occurred with a police member rather than a police service dog, charges relating to the death or injury of the member could have been laid. In this case, when the suspect was finally apprehended by members, there were no charges related to Nitro's death.

BACKGROUND TO RESOLUTION #11-6

In 2009, the federal government announced its plan to phase out Canada's six prison farms, located at the Pittsburgh and Frontenac institutions in Ontario, the Westmorland Institution in New Brunswick, the Rockwood Institution in Manitoba, the Riverbend Institution in Saskatchewan, and the Bowden Institution in Alberta. Since this announcement there has been much public and private debate about the merits of the prison farm program, including a debate in the House of Commons on December 1, 2010.

The government's rationale for phasing out these prison farms was based upon a 2008 strategic review of the operations of the Correctional Service

of Canada, which calculated an annual \$4 million deficit in prison farm operations and concluded that few offenders secured employment in the agricultural sector after release. The Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security was advised that it could not be privy to the contents of this strategic review document.

On April 1, 2010, the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security called upon the Minister of Public Safety to table the Correctional Service of Canada 2008 strategic review document and to “refrain from taking any steps to sell, dismantle or reduce operations at any of Canada’s prison farms in any way, until independent experts have had an opportunity to fully review the value of the farm program and fully report in writing, to both the Minister of Public Safety and the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, and that it be reported to the House of Commons.”

The *Annual Report of the Office of the Correctional Investigator 2009–10*, presented to the Minister of Public Safety on June 30, 2010, stated “Prison-based employment and vocational training programs, like the prison farm, offer transferable lessons and life-skills, such as the value and pride of completing an ‘honest’ day’s work, punctuality, self-discipline, dependability, self-respect and responsibility that go well beyond the vagaries of the marketplace. The Service [Correctional Service of Canada] would be well-advised to suspend the decision to close the prison farms until Parliamentarians have concluded their review of this issue.”

Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Addiction in the Federal Correctional System, a Report of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security presented to the House of Commons on December 14, 2010, recommended that “Correctional Service Canada restore its prison farm program, which is an excellent rehabilitation tool, also serving as animal therapy.”

Background to Resolution 11-7

There is no other forensic identification technique (fingerprints, ballistics, tire tracks and tool marks) that is as effective as DNA in identifying individuals who have committed a crime or in exonerating a person suspected of committing a crime. In section 4 of the *DNA Identification Act*, it is specifically stated that “the protection of society and the administration of justice are well served by the early detection, arrest and

conviction of offenders, which can be facilitated by the use of DNA profiles” .

In Europe, where England is widely recognized as having one of the most successful approaches to the use of forensic DNA technology, statistics show that with over 2 million DNA profiles loaded into their system there is a 40 percent greater chance of obtaining a match between a crime scene profile and a “criminal justice” (arrestee or suspect) profile.¹

Currently, an offender’s DNA is not checked against the Databank until a conviction is entered and an Order granted for collection of a sample, unlike with fingerprinting where fingerprints are taken at the time of arrest and compared to the fingerprint database. Unsolved cases in the Databank can remain on hold for a considerable amount of time waiting for an offender’s DNA to be submitted. In addition, there is often considerable delay between arrest and conviction, this results in an added delay of up to years before cases in the Databank can be properly investigated and the offenders either identified or exonerated. It is important to note that a hit on the Databank only allows the investigation to proceed to the obtaining of a warrant.

Delays in obtaining a sample for comparison to the Databank mean that previous offences committed by the offender remain unsolved until conviction for the new offence. This means that an accused who has committed other crimes will go undetected for years while awaiting trial for his current arrest, leaving victim’s without answers and allowing an accused on bail to continue to commit similar offences, undeterred. Should an accused not be convicted, that sample will be removed from the Databank and destroyed. Many accused fail to attend court and many individuals who are required to provide DNA do not do so. Collecting DNA at the time of arrest ensures that a sample is provided.²

The offences described in 487.04, “primary designated offences” (a), are the most serious offences in the *Criminal Code* (murder, aggravated sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, etc.) and the Court “shall” order a DNA sample upon conviction. This is in contrast to other primary designated offences described in section 487.04 “primary designated offences” (a.1) – (d) and “secondary designated offences” described in section 487.04, where the Court has some discretion in ordering a sample

¹ Asplen, Christopher. *The Application of DNA Technology in England and Wales*. Smith Alling Lane. Received by the US Department of Justice January 2004. p.1.

² Victims of Violence. (2008). *Research – DNA Databanks*. Retrieved March 8, 2011 from http://www.victimsofviolence.on.ca/rev2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=341&Itemid=31

upon conviction. The public has a special interest in ensuring swift investigations of these most serious offences.

If the *Criminal Code* is amended to allow for the taking of a sample at the time of arrest for a s.487.04 “primary designated offence”(a), hits on the Databank will be identified much earlier, and investigations will be able to proceed expeditiously. The elimination of delay benefits the administration of justice by ensuring that investigations are conducted when other evidence can still be obtained and witness memories are fresh. In addition, trials are conducted within a reasonable time which allows compliance with the accused’s constitutionally protected right

Background to Resolution 11-8

Police services, remand and correctional services, hospital emergency rooms and social service agencies in the country regularly come into contact with individuals with substance abuse and addictions issues, mental health related issues and developmental delays which, when left improperly or un- treated, can result in criminality and bring them into conflict with the justice system and the community. As of 2006, “Canada is the only advanced industrial country that does not have a national strategy or plan on mental health. As a result, people in Canada suffer unnecessary disability and mortality from mental illness, addictions, and poor mental health, and system costs continue to rise.”³ This also leads individuals, unnecessarily, into the criminal justice system, as “[u]p to 10 percent of the cost of crime can be attributed to inadequate mental health care for children and youth.”⁴

Statistics on mental health issues in inmate populations indicate that mental health and addictions issues are a significant contributor to issues within the criminal justice system. “Recent figures indicate that nearly 35 per cent of the 13,300 inmates in federal penitentiaries have a mental health impairment requiring treatment – triple the estimated total as recently as 2004, and far higher than the incidence of mental illness in the general population.”⁵ It has been found that “prevalence rates for mental

³ Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. (2006). *Framework for Action on Mental Illness and Mental Health: Recommendations to Health and Social Policy Leaders of Canada for a National Action Plan on Mental Illness and Mental Health*. p.iv.

⁴ Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. (2006). *Framework for Action on Mental Illness and Mental Health: Recommendations to Health and Social Policy Leaders of Canada for a National Action Plan on Mental Illness and Mental Health*. p.1.

⁵ Makin, K. (January 22, 2011). *To Heal and Protect; Canada’s Prisons are Overburdened with Mentally Ill Inmates, but Ottawa’s Millions are Going Toward New Cellblocks – Not the Care That’s So Badly Needed*. The Globe and Mail.

health problems and mental disorders in offenders exceed those of the general and the [Correctional] Service [of Canada] reports substantial increases over recent years. According to the latest available data, at admission 11% of offenders committed to federal jurisdiction had a mental health diagnosis, an increase of 71% since 1997, 21.3% had been prescribed medication for psychiatric concerns and 6.1% were receiving outpatient services prior to incarceration. A further 14.5% of male offenders had previously been hospitalized for psychiatric. As concerning as these numbers are, they are likely underestimations”.⁶ These numbers are even more staggering in the female inmate population, “[f]emale offenders are twice as likely as their male counterparts to be diagnosed with a mental-health condition when they’re admitted to prison...the number of women admitted to penitentiaries with mental problems doubled from 1997 to 2009.”⁷ These individuals may put employees in these agencies, which are not designed to diagnose or treat mental health issues, at risk, in addition to increasing the burden on these agencies, which are not staffed or funded to respond to such issues. “Behind bars, effective treatment is rarely more than a promise while reality is a severe shortage of psychiatric professionals and a patient population so diverse it can explode if different kinds of inmate mix.”⁸ Additionally, “The cost to society is immense. After clogging cell blocks for months or years, untreated prisoners often are released only to get into trouble all over again.”⁹

Of note, in Canada “[m]ental health as a sector has always been seriously discriminated against in terms of funding. Budgets for physical health have vastly outstripped funding for mental health based on comparable prevalence and burden data. It is unthinkable in Canada to deny basic physical health services to people with cancer or cardiovascular disease yet it is common place to not provide basic mental health services to Canadians of all ages.”¹⁰ The numbers of psychiatric beds, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses and social workers per 100,000 population in Canada lags behind those of other developed nations, as does spending on mental health versus total health spending.¹¹

⁶ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

⁷ Makin, K. (January 27, 2011). *Incarcerated, In Pain; An Alarming Rise in the Number of Female Inmates with Mental Illness is Prompting Urgent Calls for Treatment Centres That Already Exist for Men*. The Globe and Mail.

⁸ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

⁹ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

¹⁰ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

¹¹ Alberta Mental Health Board & Institute of Health Economics. (2007). *Mental Health Economic Statistics: In Your Pocket*.

It has been stated that “Governments in Canada need to act quickly to respond to the mounting prevalence of mental health conditions, their rising costs to our economy, and the serious incapacities of our health and social service systems to respond to changing needs.”¹² It has been shown by “policies targeted at other diseases that significant investments in research, education, treatment advances, and health promotion inevitably lead to reduced incidence, earlier detection, and improved recovery and survival rates.”¹³

Individuals with mental health issues require, and deserve, a well developed mental health strategy to properly diagnose and treat their conditions, preventing them from entering the criminal justice system, which is not equipped or designed for these individuals and lacks the appropriate time and treatment programs for them. A mental health strategy should include increased access to services, programs and support; reduced stigmatization and discrimination; improved data collection; increased prevention and early intervention, particularly for children and youth; increased research; and improved public education, with the overall goal of decreasing the impacts of addictions, mental illness and developmental delays on individuals and families and improving the quality of life and status for impacted individuals.

Background to Resolution #11-9

In order to fulfill their duty to serve the public in an independent and impartial way, the police need to be independent from the government and from government direction. This prevents politicians from directing police for their own purposes, against what is best for the community and citizens in general. However, the police should be accountable to the public they serve. This is why police boards and commissions were created; to oversee the police and ensure they are fulfilling their duties to the citizens they are sworn to protect and serve. A police board or commission also provides a connection between the government and the police, ensuring that the government does not interfere with the police but is still able to discuss any concerns they may have.

¹² Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. (2006). *Framework for Action on Mental Illness and Mental Health: Recommendations to Health and Social Policy Leaders of Canada for a National Action Plan on Mental Illness and Mental Health*. p.iv.

¹³ Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health. (2006). *Framework for Action on Mental Illness and Mental Health: Recommendations to Health and Social Policy Leaders of Canada for a National Action Plan on Mental Illness and Mental Health*. p.2.

A civilian oversight body would help restore faith in the RCMP as police service that truly services communities that is fully accountable to the citizens it serves. As each province has a variety of police oversight bodies, these boards, commissions, committees and other organizations could liaise with the RCMP civilian oversight body to ensure that the RCMP is meeting the needs of the communities it serves. With the current change in RCMP Commissioner, and the lack of public confidence in the accountability of the RCMP and its ability to meet the needs of Canadians, the timing couldn't be better for the Federal Government to meet the needs and requests of Canadians and establish a civilian oversight body for the RCMP that is truly arms length from the federal government.

Background to Resolution #11 - 10

“Human trafficking involves the illegal movement of people across international borders for the purpose of exploitation, usually in the form of forced labour, prostitution and other forms of servitude, and usually involves threats of the use of force. According to the federal government, most human trafficking victims are women and children from Asia, who are often forced into the sex trade.”¹⁴

It has been reported that “[t]he first major report by the RCMP on human trafficking in Canada in 2004 estimated that about 600 foreign nationals are brought to Canada for sex trafficking every year.”¹⁵ It is important to note that trafficked individuals can be both foreigners and Canadians. While arrests and convictions for human trafficking are not common in Canada, knowledge of this issue is increasing, and, with it, enforcement efforts and a rise in cases.

A National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, similar to the recently launched program in Ontario,¹⁶ must be developed and should include the following sections:

1. Prosecution of Traffickers: Widen the scope and definition of the trafficking laws to allow for effective and successful investigation and prosecution of human traffickers and consider minimum sentences for convicted human traffickers. Encourage and fund the development of

¹⁴ CBC News. (January 20, 2011). *Human Trafficking Plan Needed: Police Chiefs: More Funding and Updated Laws Needed*. CBC. Retrieved January 20, 2011 from <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2011/01/20/bc-police-human-trafficking.html>

¹⁵ Rappaport, M. (February 6, 2011). Of Human Bondage: 'Invisible Chains' exposes Canada's pitiful track record in combating human trafficking. *Lawyer's Weekly*. 30(36).

¹⁶ Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. (February 17, 2011). *Stepping up the Fight Against Human Trafficking: McGuinty Government Strengthening Support for Victims and Police*. Queen's Printer for Ontario. Retrieved February 17, 2011 from <http://news.ontario.ca/mag/en/2011/02/stepping-up-the-fight-against-human-trafficking.html>

integrated law enforcement Human Trafficking Task Forces to target the most prolific and violent criminal organizations and networks.

2. Protection of Victims: Ensure victims of human trafficking can access needed governmental and non-governmental services wherever they are identified in Canada.
3. Preventing the Crime: Prevention efforts, working with the provinces, Aboriginal leaders, non-government agencies and survivors, to provide outreach and education to ensure that the most vulnerable, including at-risk Aboriginal youth and those in child protection, are resistant to tactics of traffickers; ensure temporary foreign workers who are victims benefit from "whistleblower" protection with alternative employment and recovery of unpaid wages.
4. Focus on the Demand: Stiffen penalties for sex consumers who create the demand for trafficking victims. Revise the criminal law so that trafficked persons are treated as victims. Provide support programs to victims to ensure they are freed and not re-victimized. Vigorously enforce Canada's extraterritorial child sex crime offences and prevent convicted child sex offenders from freely traveling abroad.

Background to Resolution #11 - 11

From a public safety perspective, a dedicated spectrum allotment would provide an ability to create municipal/provincial/regional/nationwide public safety wireless broadband networks that:

- Deliver improved interoperability and integrated emergency management
- Enable a robust system that meets Public Safety's mission critical requirements for service availability
- Support priority access and meaningful ruthless pre-emption rights
- Include high levels of security and encryption
- Provide the bandwidth to support applications critical to public safety (video streaming, geomapping, biometrics, telemedicine etc.).

Of note, in the U.S., a similar digital TV transition was accomplished in mid-2009. The FCC has already dedicated 10 MHz to the Public Safety. U.S. public safety agencies are now lobbying for an additional 10 MHz block to support the high demand for the spectrum. Harmonization between Industry Canada and FCC plans is essential to Public Safety to

ensure cross border interoperability and coordination is possible. It will also enable economies of scale in equipment manufacture, which will serve the public interest by providing the public safety community with equipment through superior speed-to-market and lower cost.

Background to Resolution #11 - 12

The *DNA Identification Act*, S.C. 1998, as am. 2000, c. 10 ("*DNA Act*") provides a legal framework to regulate the storage and collection of DNA data and the biological samples from which they have been derived. The *DNA Act* provides for the structure and administration of a national DNA data bank. This database is maintained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ("RCMP") and is used to assist Canadian law enforcement agencies in the investigation of serious crimes.

The *DNA Act* must be read in conjunction with the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46 ("*Criminal Code*") provisions dealing with the collection and use of DNA samples. In January 2008, the *Criminal Code* was amended to expand on the criteria and procedure for collecting the DNA samples.

The *Criminal Code* provisions provide for a provincial court judge to grant an Order for the collection of DNA sample when he or she was satisfied that a designated offence had been committed.

Designated offences are generally serious personal injury offences. The judge has to be satisfied that the issuance of the Order is in the best interests of the administration of justice. Amendments made in January 2008 now provide that a judge may specify in the Order when and where the offender is to attend for the taking of their DNA samples (*Criminal Code*, section 487.051(4)). Similarly, the amendments now include a provision that allows a warrant be issued for the arrest of any offender who fails to comply with such an Order.

Prior to these amendments, however, hundreds of DNA Orders from across the country had gone unexecuted.

Although not an exhaustive list, on review it would appear that most outstanding DNA Orders went unexecuted for one or more of the following reasons:

1. A non-custodial offender was never turned over to a police officer for DNA sampling;

2. Alternatively, a non-custodial offender was transported to a location to allow a police officer to take a DNA sample, but no officer was available to execute the order;
3. The offender was never served with an “Order to a Person to Have Bodily Substances Taken for Forensic DNA Analysis”; and as a result, the offender left the court without regard to the order;
4. After January 1, 2008, the court did not make an Order in Form 5.041 indicating a specific date, time and place for the offender to attend in order to have his/her DNA sample taken;
5. The custodial offender completed the sentence and was released without submitting a sample of their DNA.

While law enforcement agencies remain in possession of unexecuted Court Orders to obtain DNA samples from the offenders who have committed primary and secondary designated offences (as defined within s. 487.04 of the *Criminal Code*), they cannot execute the Orders without risking breaching section 487.056 of the *Criminal Code* which mandates that DNA samples should be obtained:

- (a) at the place, day and time set out in an order made under subsection 487.051(4) *or as soon as feasible afterwards* or;
- (b) in any other case, on the day on which the order authorizing the taking of the samples is made *or as soon as feasible afterwards*.
[emphasis added]

Background to Resolution #11-13

Due to the expected increase in offender populations in prisons, as a result of various new pieces of legislation recently introduced and passed by Parliament, there is a need for additional staff in the expanding prisons. Of the expected 3000 new hires, only 10 are psychologists and 25 are nurses, “positions already identified as experiencing ‘shortages’”.¹⁷

Numerous objections have been raised about the lack of mental health services in Canada’s prisons, as well as the lack of funding for prevention and rehabilitation. In response to the current funding plan, to build new spaces in Canada’s prisons, statements have been made, such as “[t]his government is going to have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars simply to guard the new inmates that they’re having to put into prison as well as building new cells, and they’re not placing their money or their investment in actually adequately dealing with the underlying causes of crime. This is simply money wasted on housing and guarding prisoners”; and “limited services in prisons actually make citizens less safe because it means the inmate is not treated before he or she most likely returns to society.”¹⁸

While crime prevention programs continue to be under-funded, the funding for treatment of addictions, mental health issues and rehabilitation programs in correctional settings are also concerns. Statistics on mental health issues in inmate populations indicate that mental health and addictions issues are a significant contributor to issues within the criminal justice system. “Recent figures indicate that nearly 35 per cent of the 13,300 inmates in federal penitentiaries have a mental health impairment requiring treatment – triple the estimated total as recently as 2004, and far higher than the incidence of mental illness in the general population.”¹⁹ It has been found that “prevalence rates for mental health problems and mental disorders in offenders exceed those of the general and the [Correctional] Service [of Canada] reports substantial increases over recent years. According to the latest available data, at admission 11% of offenders committed to federal jurisdiction had a mental health diagnosis,

¹⁷ Stone, L. (February 2, 2011). *Mental Health Problems to Worsen Under Prison Expansion Scheme: Critic*. Calgary Herald. Retrieved February 2, 2011 from <http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Mental+health+problems+worsen+under+prison+expansion+scheme+critic/4213683/story.html>

¹⁸ Stone, L. (February 2, 2011). *Mental Health Problems to Worsen Under Prison Expansion Scheme: Critic*. Calgary Herald. Retrieved February 2, 2011 from <http://www.calgaryherald.com/health/Mental+health+problems+worsen+under+prison+expansion+scheme+critic/4213683/story.html>

¹⁹ Makin, K. (January 22, 2011). *To Heal and Protect; Canada’s Prisons are Overburdened with Mentally Ill Inmates, but Ottawa’s Millions are Going Toward New Cellblocks – Not the Care That’s So Badly Needed*. The Globe and Mail.

an increase of 71% since 1997, 21.3% had been prescribed medication for psychiatric concerns and 6.1% were receiving outpatient services prior to incarceration. A further 14.5% of male offenders had previously been hospitalized for psychiatric. As concerning as these numbers are, they are likely underestimations”.²⁰ These numbers are even more staggering in the female inmate population, “[f]emale offenders are twice as likely as their male counterparts to be diagnosed with a mental-health condition when they’re admitted to prison...the number of women admitted to penitentiaries with mental problems doubled from 1997 to 2009.”²¹ These individuals may put employees in these agencies, which are not designed to diagnose or treat mental health issues, at risk, in addition to increasing the burden on these agencies, which are not staffed or funded to respond to such issues. “Behind bars, effective treatment is rarely more than a promise while reality is a severe shortage of psychiatric professionals and a patient population so diverse it can explode if different kinds of inmate mix.”²² Additionally, “The cost to society is immense. After clogging cell blocks for months or years, untreated prisoners often are released only to get into trouble all over again.”²³

Police services, remand and correctional services, hospital emergency rooms and social service agencies in the country regularly come into contact with individuals with substance abuse and addictions issues, mental health related issues and developmental delays which, when left improperly or un- treated, can result in criminality and bring them into conflict with the justice system and the community. To reduce the societal and economic costs of leaving these issues unaddressed, properly funding crime prevention programs, addictions counseling, mental health services and rehabilitation programs, to address the causes of crime, should be a priority of the Federal Government.

²⁰ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

²¹ Makin, K. (January 27, 2011). *Incarcerated, In Pain; An Alarming Rise in the Number of Female Inmates with Mental Illness is Prompting Urgent Calls for Treatment Centres That Already Exist for Men*. The Globe and Mail.

²² Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.

²³ Service, J. (2010). *Under Warrant: A Review of the Implementation of the Correctional Service of Canada's 'Mental Health Strategy'*. Prepared for the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada.