



*The Honourable Kim Pate, C.M. | L'honorable Kim Pate, C.M.  
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## **News Release**

### **Implications of the Auditor General's Report on the Cost of CSC's Failure to Integrate of Prisoners into the Community**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018 – The report on community reintegration released by the Auditor General yesterday reveals that the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) is failing in its mandate to ensure prisoners are released from federal penitentiaries when they are eligible for parole. The human, social and fiscal costs of these failures are not sustainable.

According to the Auditor General, those eligible for parole now wait twice as long to be released as they did four years ago. While the cost to CSC of maintaining someone in the community is estimated at around \$30,000 per year, the Parliamentary Budget Officer has calculated that the price tag for keeping a woman in federal prison for a year is anywhere from \$343,000 to more than \$600,000.

“It is time to face the facts. Prisons are the least effective, most expensive way to address the issues that correctional staff, researchers and prisoners alike identify as the roots of mushrooming carceral populations,” stated Senator Kim Pate. “We should stop flushing people and tax dollars into warehousing people in ever more crowded prisons and instead invest much needed resources in alleviating social, racial, gendered and economic inequality and injustice, by addressing the ravages of colonization, violence against women, racism, poverty, and homelessness.”

Referring to an abundance of research, the Auditor General recommends that CSC work at fulfilling its mandate to integrate individuals at the earliest eligibility as time spent in the community with positive support structures such as family and employment are crucial to successful community integration and public safety. Previous reports of the Auditor General have demonstrated how CSC practices and policies, from classification to conditions of confinement and conditional release prejudice the community integration of those released from prison, most particularly women, Indigenous Peoples and those with disabling mental health and/or intellectual challenges.

“Despite these findings, Bill C-83 and other recent changes to CSC policy will further restrict access to community-based options for prisoners and parolees, particularly those who are Indigenous,” concluded Pate.

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