



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

Experts Respond to Parliamentary Budget Officer's Report on Bill C-83: There Are Other Options

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTTAWA, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019 – In response to yesterday's [report of the Parliamentary Budget Officer](#) (PBO) on Bill C-83, *An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and another Act*, experts have shared the following comments on the four more effective and less costly alternatives to Bill C-83 highlighted in the report:

Elizabeth Fry proposal for ending segregation for women endorsed by the House of Commons Public Safety Committee

"It is incomprehensible to us why the government would choose to put more money into isolation, a practice that causes serious harm including death. There are feasible positive alternatives. Why is our government not pursuing these options?"

- *Diana Majury, President of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies*

Transfers to provincial health services

"We are devastated to hear that Ashley's death is being used to justify the renaming and continuing of the torture and isolation that killed our Ash!"

- *Coralee Smith, Ashley Smith's mum*

"People with mental health issues should NEVER be in seg. They need to be in hospitals or community mental health services. What will it take to end this hell for prisoners and families in this country?"

- *Dawna Ward, Ashley Smith's sister*

Transfers to Indigenous communities

"Bill C-83 does nothing to address the systemic racism and discrimination that has resulted in Indigenous women being half of all women in segregated conditions. The government is proposing to pay millions of dollars per woman per year to continue to lock Indigenous women—a group that the CSC's own research demonstrates represents little if any risk to security—in torturous

conditions for at least 20 hours per day. The PBO's report points to better alternatives. We should reject this senseless, ineffective and inhumane bill."

- *Dr. Pamela Palmater, Chair in Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University*

Programing interventions for gang disaffiliation

"Breakaway group members are not engaging in continuing the gang culture within the prison. This has led to less tension within the prisoner population. A number of the graduates have cascaded down to minimum security. Breakaway has public safety benefits and shows that there are much more effective ways than Bill C-83 to address gang culture in prisons."

- *Richard Sauvé, Breakaway Disaffiliation Group*

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