

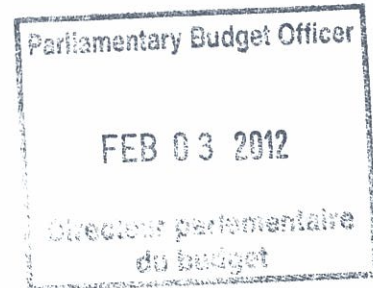


Public Safety Sécurité publique
Canada Canada

Deputy Minister Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0P8

JAN 30 2012



Mr. Kevin Page
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Library of Parliament
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Page: *Kevin,*

I write in response to your letter of January 10, 2012, where you requested information relating to the amounts spent by the federal, provincial and territorial governments on community supervision for conditional sentences of imprisonment; the number of offenders who successfully completed a conditional sentence of imprisonment without being returned to custody; as well as those who did not complete the term successfully and were returned to custody.

Further, as a subset of those questions, you also requested information in relation to provincial offenders regarding the average cost per parole hearing; the average number of hearings for an offender; the average time and percentage of the sentence served at release on parole; the number of those paroled under community supervision; and the amounts spent on parole supervision.

With regard to the first portion of your inquiry, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with all of the data relating to the expenditures by the provinces, or a complete package of statistical data related to the number of offenders who completed a conditional sentence successfully, or those who were returned to custody.

Section 742.1 of the *Criminal Code* outlines when a conditional sentence is applicable, and one of the criteria is that the offender has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment that is less than two years. Therefore, it is generally the responsibility of the provincial and territorial governments to supervise offenders who receive these types of sentences and, as a result, Public Safety Canada does not collect statistics or financial data related to provincial or territorial administration of these types of sentences.

.../2

However, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) does provide community supervision of some provincial offenders. While CSC tracks the number of offenders under its supervision, due to limitations with data capture, CSC is unable to provide information specific to offenders serving conditional sentences.

To obtain the information that you have requested, I would suggest that you contact the provincial and territorial governments. A list of key contacts is enclosed.

With regard to the second portion of your inquiry, the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) makes conditional release decisions for offenders in provinces and territories that do not have their own parole boards. Only the provinces of Ontario and Quebec have their own parole boards that have authority to grant releases to offenders serving less than two years in prison. With that in mind, in 2008-2009, the PBC conducted 976 reviews of provincial cases, of which 211 were hearings. In 2009-2010, the PBC conducted 945 reviews of provincial cases, of which 152 were hearings.

In this context, I would like to caution that the PBC is unable to provide an average cost per parole hearing as the costs are influenced by a variety of factors. These include whether the parole review is conducted through a hearing or an office review; travel costs that can vary depending on the location of the institution; the number of participants at the hearing (e.g., number of Board members, hearing officers, communications officer, observers, victims); and the complexity of the file, which can impact the length of the hearing and the amount of preparation time required to complete the parole review. Providing an average cost without considering these factors would overly simplify a complex business activity and would lead to an inaccurate representation of the cost. Concerning the other information in this part of the request, the PBC does not have this information available for provincial offenders serving a conditional sentence.

I regret the limitation of the information I am able to provide you in this matter, but again, I would encourage you to contact the provincial and territorial governments for a more fulsome picture of conditional sentences.

Should you require any additional information, I would be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William V. Baker', with a stylized, flowing script.

William V. Baker

Enclosure: (1)

c.c.: Mr. Myles Kirvan
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada

Mr. Don Head
Commissioner, Correctional Service of Canada

Mr. Harvey Cenaiko
Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada