

## Backgrounder on Bill 1 – Corrections Act

## Purpose of the legislation:

This legislation replaces the outdated Act and its Regulations in their entirety, substituting what is currently in force with a unique Nunavut corrections legislation. This legislation takes into consideration Nunavut's history and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles, while addressing modern developments in the field of corrections.

## Legislative focus:

The key focus areas of Act are as follows;

- 1. Human rights and the humane custody of incarcerated Nunavummiut;
- 2. Incorporation of a Nunavut-based approach founded in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) and grounded in Inuit Societal Values;
- 3. Increased accountability with the introduction of independent adjudication in key areas; and
- 4. Modernization in keeping with International and Canadian correctional best practices and standards in rehabilitation and reintegration.

The proposed Bill is the result of a broad consultative process that took place in late 2016 and early 2017 which included consultation with inmates, justice stakeholders, hamlet councils, Inuit Organizations, Elders and community members.

## Major Reforms:

Some of the major reforms in the new Act include the addition of the following:

- Definitions regarding written notices to inmates, including language requirements and accommodations for individuals who have difficult reading and writing.
- Requirements to consider an inmate's mental health issues as health issues
  rather than as safety concerns and requirements for correctional officers to direct
  inmates to mental health services.
- The update of the guiding principles and purpose sections of the Act.
- Legislated requirements guiding the use of force.
- The creation of independent oversight positions, the investigations officer and the deputy investigations office, to act as arms-length accountability and



transparency mechanism, ensuring decision making is in full compliance with all existing legislation, regulations and policy.

- Additional oversight of the disciplinary board process including Independent appeal and limits on the use of administrative segregation.
- A legislated complaints process and protections against reprisals.
- Requirements to produce annual reports.
- The creation of an Inuit Societal Values Committee to guide the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Societal Values in policies, programming and services offered by Corrections.