



NEWS RELEASE

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Opportunities for improvement in community corrections

VICTORIA – Auditor General John Doyle has released his latest report, *Effectiveness of BC Community Corrections*. This audit examined the Community Corrections and Corporate Programs (CCCP) division's success in reducing rates of re-offending among those under its supervision, and identified particular areas that may be impacting the CCCP's effectiveness.

In 2010/11, close to 24,000 adult offenders, or 90% of B.C.'s correctional population, were supervised in the community as opposed to jail. The responsibility for supervising all adult offenders serving a community sentence lies with the CCCP division of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

"B.C. has a strong model for managing offenders, but its success relies on the individual discretion and professional judgement of probation officers, well-trained probation officers, a strong quality assurance program, and thorough documentation," said Doyle. "Our audit found that these practices are not at the level they should be."

Currently, only 35% of interventions that are designed to reduce re-offending are ever completed. The lack of completion means potential increased risks to public safety and costs to taxpayers and victims, should offenders re-offend. In addition, by not completing their rehabilitation program, offenders are not provided with the opportunity to change.

The audit also found that the CCCP has not sufficiently analyzed the role it plays in decreasing the rate of re-offending by those who have served community sentences. The Auditor General was unable to conclude as to whether the CCCP has achieved its goal of reducing re-offences, for reasons identified in the report.

"Given the risks and challenges involved, it is important to ensure that risks are mitigated and benefits, to both the offenders and the public, are maximized," said Doyle. "My eight recommendations are designed to mitigate key risks to an acceptable level."

About the Office of the Auditor General of B.C.

The Auditor General is a non-partisan, independent Officer of the Legislature who reports directly to the Legislative Assembly. The *Auditor General Act* empowers the Auditor General and staff (known as the Office of the Auditor General or OAG) to conduct audits, report findings and make recommendations.

2011/12 Report 10 – *Effectiveness of BC Community Corrections*

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