

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 6:20 PM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Lapsley, Amy JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft IN for Review - Female incarceration on the island

s.13

Our parts are fine with me

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 05:14 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Lapsley, Amy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft IN for Review - Female incarceration on the island

Sure we can add that.

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**From:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 04:29 PM  
**To:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Lapsley, Amy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Draft IN for Review - Female incarceration on the island

Hi, I don't have any changes myself,

s.13  
as well.

s.13  
but I am sending this to Brent and Marnie as well for review

### Suggested response:

- It is our priority to create a Corrections environment that is not only a safe environment for staff and inmates, but is also cost-effective.
- Inmate demand and economies of scale are always key considerations when we determine where to invest our capital corrections projects, and that is even more crucial in tough fiscal times.
- It is important to note that on average, there is less than one BC Corrections adult woman prisoner held in the Victoria Police Department lockup per day, representing a total cost to BC Corrections each year of approximately \$35,000.
- This is significantly less than building and operating a female remand centre in the Capital Region.

#### If asked about adding a wing to VIRCC or adding a unit at a youth detention facility:

- In the past and more recently, we have looked at a number of options, including the feasibility of opening a unit in the local youth facility, or renovating a unit so it would be appropriate for female offenders at VIRCC.
- However, the number of female offenders in this region does not justify the expense of either of those options.

#### If pressed on police lockups:

- As for the use of local police lockups, it is the responsibility of local police authorities to provide an adequate standard of care.
- In addition, it is the responsibility of the Sheriffs to move inmates from local lockups to BC Corrections centres in a timely manner.
- We recognize police lockups are not the ideal location to house remanded females.
- That's why the Corrections Branch, in cooperation with police agencies and the Court Services Branch tries, wherever possible, to reduce the number of provincial prisoners in local police lockups through the use of video court appearances, more frequent prisoner transport schedules, and increased hours of admission at regional correctional centres.

If asked about support for women in our centres:

- We are absolutely committed to meeting the needs of female inmates and providing every opportunity for rehabilitation upon release into the community.
- That is why BC Corrections chose to expand the Alouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW), add a women's wing to the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre and add a women's unit to the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre.
- These facilities provide female offenders with extensive programming designed specifically for female offenders such as mental health supports, substance abuse programs, relationship programs and work and skills training.

**Background:**

On May 16, a reporter appeared on a radio station in Victoria to discuss her recent newspaper article which outlined problems with the lack of a remand centre for female inmates on Vancouver Island. The reporter was joined by a criminal defence lawyer who claimed the lack of a female centre was discriminatory for female offenders and violates their rights. They outlined claims that women are housed in police lockups for up to six days at a time without showers and are transferred to a correctional facility in the Lower Mainland which takes them away from family, court and their lawyers on the Island. The host of the radio program called upon the Premier and the Minister of Justice to take action on the problem and stated that because they are female politicians, they should be concerned about the rights of female offenders.

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 3:46 PM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Draft IN for Review.

Hello!

We put an IN together for the minister on this topic since she's been called out by the host today and we have a media request for an interview.

For your review, thanks.

<<Corrections - Female Remand Vancouver Island - IN - 16May13.doc>>

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**Tasha Schollen**

Government Communications and Public Engagement

Ministry of Justice



## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 10:03 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Coulson, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: CFAF - Female Remand Centre on Van. Island

**Importance:** High

See below

*Marnie Mayhew*

Director, Programs and Strategic Services

Corrections Branch Headquarters

Tel. s.17

Email [Marnie.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Marnie.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Lapsley, Amy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 9:59 AM  
**To:** Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Forbes, Patricia C GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** CFAF - Female Remand Centre on Van. Island

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**Amy Lapsley**

Public Affairs Officer

Ministry of Justice

250-356-6961 (media line)

s.17 (direct)

s.17 (cell)

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 10:29 AM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media Request - Times Colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting

Fine with me.

*Brent Merchant  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Corrections Branch*

[Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)  
*Office: 250-387-5363  
Cell: s.17*

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**From:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 9:53 AM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Media Request - Times Colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting

Hi there, please see the suggested statement below. I've added one addition for your consideration.

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 9:45 AM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Dickson, David GCPE:EX; Lapsley, Amy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media Request - Times Colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting

Hello Cindy,  
We've drafted this response based on an email that Clayton sent to Brent this morning  
s.13 Seeking Brent's signoff on this. Meantime, Donna is running it by Clayton.

Thanks!

### Deadline @ 4pm

**Media:** Times Colonist  
**Reporter:** Louise Dickson, 250-382-5021, [ldickson@timescolonist.com](mailto:ldickson@timescolonist.com)  
**Topic:** Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. – BCACP Meeting

**Background:** Reporter has asked for an interview with MSA to find out if she is willing to push for a remand centre for female inmates on Vancouver Island. She has also asked for an interview with the Director of Police Services to discuss the comments he intends to make today at the BCACP meeting in Kelowna.

**Questions:** Does Justice Minister Suzanne Anton see the need for a female remand centre on Vancouver Island and will she move to get one built? What did Clayton Pecknold say to the BCACP today?

**Suggested Response:**

“As Attorney General and Minister of Justice, I am sympathetic to the needs of female offenders and realize there are benefits to inmates being close to family and counsel. We must balance the needs of female offenders throughout the province with what is most cost-effective for taxpayers.

In this case, we are not considering an additional capital investment on Vancouver Island. We have been given a mandate to reform our justice system to improve the service it provides to British Columbians, while balancing the ministry budget.

s.13

s.13

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**Tasha Schollen**

Media Relations and Issues Manager  
Government Communications and Public Engagement

**Ministry of Justice**

Phone: 250-356-6538

Cell: s.17

## **Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 1:12 PM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Updated: Media Request - Times colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting

Fine

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**From:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 01:05 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Mayhew, Marnie JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Updated: Media Request - Times colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting

Please review changes made by Clayton. Thanks

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**From:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 19, 2013 1:02 PM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Lapsley, Amy GCPE:EX; Dickson, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Updated: Media Request - Times colonist - Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. - BCACP Meeting  
**Importance:** High

Cindy this is signed off by policing. As soon as you get Brent's signoff I need to send to Court Services Branch too.  
Thanks!

### **Deadline @ 4pm**

**Media:** Times Colonist  
**Reporter:** Louise Dickson, 250-382-5021, [ldickson@timescolonist.com](mailto:ldickson@timescolonist.com)  
**Topic:** Female Remand Centre Van. Isl. – BCACP Meeting

**Background:** Reporter has asked for an interview with MSA to find out if she is willing to push for a remand centre for female inmates on Vancouver Island. She has also asked for an interview with the Director of Police Services to discuss the comments he intends to make today at the BCACP meeting in Kelowna.

**Questions:** Does Justice Minister Suzanne Anton see the need for a female remand centre on Vancouver Island and will she move to get one built? What did Clayton Pecknold say to the BCACP today?

**Suggested Response:**



**“As Attorney General and Minister of Justice, I am sympathetic to the needs of female offenders and realize there are benefits to inmates being close to family and counsel. We must balance the needs of female offenders throughout the province with what is most cost-effective for taxpayers.**

**In this case, we are not considering an additional capital investment on Vancouver Island. We have been given a mandate to reform our justice system to improve the service it provides to British Columbians, while balancing the ministry budget.**

s.13

s.13

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**Tasha Schollen**

Media Relations and Issues Manager  
Government Communications and Public Engagement

**Ministry of Justice**

Phone: 250-356-6538

Cell: s.17

## **Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 21, 2013 12:23 PM  
**To:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Letter in response to female inmates editorial

I am good with this but I would wait for Kevin and Claytons response before forwarding if possible

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 21, 2013 11:36 AM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: Letter in response to female inmates editorial

Folks - HQ asked that we consider a letter in response. They like the tone of this one and it's pulled straight from our pre-approved msging. Any concerns with it before I send to the MO for consideration?

The Editor  
Times Colonist

s.13

Suzanne Anton  
Attorney General and Minister of Justice

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From: Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX  
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2013 7:33 AM  
To: Jardine, Kevin JAG:EX; Merchant, Brent JAG:EX; Pecknold, Clayton JAG:EX  
Cc: Schollen, Tasha GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Mulholland, Lauren GCPE:EX  
Subject: Fw: TNO: Women in custody treated like lepers - Iain Hunter - Times Colonist (Victoria)

Fyi

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca]  
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2013 07:08 AM  
Subject: TNO: Women in custody treated like lepers - Iain Hunter - Times Colonist (Victoria)

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## **Bordua, Karine JAG:EX**

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**From:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:53 PM  
**To:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Female Remand - IN for review  
**Attachments:** Corrections - Female Remand Van Isl - IN - 29 Jan 14 (5).doc

- We are also committed to meeting the needs of female inmates:
  - Expanded Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
  - Added a women's wing to Prince George Regional Correctional Centre
  - Added a women's wing to the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre
- This is the result of a significant investment in our correctional system – a \$185 million capital expansion, in fact.

The \$185m covered off ACCW and PG but not OCC

s.13

*Brent Merchant  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
BC Corrections Branch*

[Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brent.Merchant@gov.bc.ca)  
Office: 250-387-5363  
Cell: s.17

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**From:** Rose, Cindy JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2014 5:36 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Female Remand - IN for review

Hi, the MO requested this note to be updated for session. Pete and Bill have reviewed.

thanks

Cindy Rose  
A/Director, Programs & Strategic Services  
BC Corrections Branch  
(o) s.17



**CONFIDENTIAL  
ISSUES NOTE**

Ministry of Justice  
Date: Jan. 30, 2014

Minister Responsible: Hon. Suzanne Anton

**Treatment of female  
inmates in police cells**

**SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

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- On average, there is less than one female prisoner held in the Victoria PD lockup per day, and their average stay is less than one day.

s.13

- We are also committed to meeting the needs of female inmates:
  - Expanded Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
  - Added a women's wing to Prince George Regional Correctional Centre
  - Added a women's wing to the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre
- This is the result of a significant investment in our correctional system – a \$185 million capital expansion, in fact.

s.13

- For example, on average there is less than one BC Corrections adult woman prisoner held in the Victoria Police Department lockup per day, and for less than one full day.
- This represents a total cost to BC Corrections each year of approximately \$35,000 – significantly less than building and operating a female remand centre.
- Previously, we have looked at the feasibility of opening a unit in the local youth facility, or renovating a unit so it would be appropriate for female offenders at VIRCC.
- However, the number of female offenders in this region does not justify the expense of either of those options.

s.13



## **Background:**

In a series of stories in 2013, media reported on the problems associated with the lack of a remand facility for women on Vancouver Island. A criminal defence lawyer has been quoted saying the lack of a female centre is discriminatory for female offenders and violates their rights. These print stories have highlighted situations where women were housed in police lockups for up to six days at a time without showers and were transferred to a correctional facility in the Lower Mainland, taking them away from family, court and their lawyers on the Island. A local radio host called upon the Premier and the Minister of Justice to take action on the problem and stated that because they are female politicians, they should be concerned about the rights of female offenders.

Police detention facilities must be equipped with or provide the following conditions for prisoners:

- Separation (by sight and sound) of female prisoners from male prisoners and of young persons from adults prisoners.
- Sufficient lighting and circulation of air.
- Access to a toilet, wash basin or shower, and drinking water.
- A bed and bedding for prisoners held in excess of 8 hours.
- Three meals to all prisoners during each 24 hour period.
- Constant monitoring of prisoners including physical visual checks at least every 20 minutes.

The standards also identify many issues that must be addressed in written policy. Of most relevance to prisoner well being, policies must describe:

- Procedures to be followed when a prisoner is in need of medical assistance.
- The dispensing of pharmaceuticals or other medical treatment by employees.
- Procedures to be followed in situations when a prisoner is monitored by staff member of the opposite sex.
- Procedures for access to the detention facility by police, counsel, family and others.

Sherriffs are responsible for housing remanded inmates. Recently, the Victoria Police Department amended its policy and now will only hold provincial remanded females for a 24-hour period. The West Shore RCMP also house female inmates in the Capital Region.

## Bordua, Karine JAG:EX

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**From:** Coulson, Peter JAG:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, June 2, 2014 1:14 PM  
**To:** Merchant, Brent JAG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Data on Female Offenders

FYI

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**From:** Coulson, Peter JAG:EX  
**Sent:** June 2, 2014 1:07 PM  
**To:** 'Stephen Howell'; Clark, Elenore JAG:EX  
**Cc:** 'Bill Foster'  
**Subject:** RE: Data on Female Offenders

Hi Steve,

I can't speak for Elenore, but I'm not able to gather this information for you this week.

Regards,  
Pete

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**From:** Stephen Howell [mailto:[s.22](#)]  
**Sent:** June 1, 2014 8:32 PM  
**To:** Clark, Elenore JAG:EX  
**Cc:** 'Bill Foster'; Coulson, Peter JAG:EX  
**Subject:** Data on Female Offenders

Pete and Elenore: Thank you both for the information. This is very helpful. I'm wondering if I would be "pushing the envelope" to much if I asked for a little more. We are trying to draw some comparisons between youth custody and adult female custody, so some additional pieces would be very useful. If its too late to get anything more, I will understand. (To include it in my powerpoint, I would need it by noon on Tuesday)

1. Can we provide some historical context on the number of women in custody - say going back ten or fifteen years? (And if it were in a graph form that would match the one I have from MCFD!)
2. Do we have any data on per diems for women at ACCW and PGRCC? (And what are the resourced capacities at ACCW, and the women's unit at PGRCC)
3. Can you tell me the male count on May 27th - remand and sentenced provincially, and on Vancouver Island.
4. And could we have the total number on community supervision (bail and sentenced), also broken down by gender.
5. And finally, any chance of some Keep of Prisoner data. Eg. on average how many men and women (and youth if you have it) are in provincial custody but in police cells. And do we have any per diem information on KOP. (I realize it varies from municipality to municipality)

Here's a long shot - have you ever done a comparison of the ratio of men and women on community supervision vs. in custody, by region, to see if fewer women get sent to custody in those regions (Island and

Interior) that don't have nearby custody facilities. I'm trying to make an argument (for which there is some anecdotal evidence) that proximity to custody increases the likelihood of a custody disposition.

Once again, I know this is a lot to ask, and I will be most grateful for anything at all. Cheers, Steve

On 30-May-14, at 9:08 PM, Clark, Elenore JAG:EX wrote:

Hi Steve,

Thanks for passing along Bill's contact information. The request that was put forward to the Ministry was forwarded to me, but I am happy to share the response with both you and Bill.

The questions we were asked to respond to were as follows:

The current information on the number of female prisoners from Vancouver Island that:

- Are currently in custody either remanded or sentenced;
- How many are moving to the mainland while awaiting trial or for short term sentences (three months or less)
- The number of female offenders being held in community based resources on Vancouver Island – including those awaiting trial and those serving a sentence. We don't have anyone on remand or sentenced to custody in a community based program so not sure what he is asking for this one – do you have any sense of what he is driving at.

Our response is as follows:

- On May 27<sup>th</sup>, there were 175 female inmates in B.C. Corrections custody centres; 26 at the Prince George Regional Correctional Centre (PGRCC), and 149 at the Allouette Correctional Centre for Women (ACCW). Of the 175 women, 32 were in custody as a result of a Vancouver Island court document. These 32 individuals also had a Vancouver Island address (including Cortez Island and Gabriola Island), according to their most recent primary address in CORNET. We would assume that each of the 32 women were transferred from Vancouver Island to ACCW, by some authority (e.g., B.C. Corrections, police).
- Of the 32 women from Vancouver Island, 11 were being held on remand, and 21 were provincially sentenced.
- Of the 21 provincially sentenced women, 8 women had a sentence length less than 90 days, and 13 had a sentence length longer than 90 days.
- We do not have information on women housed in community based resources on Vancouver Island.

I hope this is of assistance.

Elenore

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**From:** Stephen Howell s.22  
**Sent:** May 30, 2014 5:03 PM  
**To:** Clark, Elenore JAG:EX  
**Cc:** Bill Foster  
**Subject:** Re: email address for Bill Foster

Hi Elenore: Good to hear from you. Bill's email is above BUT the person who is actually going to present the information at the forum is.....ME! So perhaps you could send it to both of us. If it will help you, I think some of the things we are looking for are....

1. FY 13/14 average counts of women - remand and sentenced
2. Some trendline on those counts (five years or whatever you can manage)
3. Region of origin of those women (specifically, what proportion of the remand and sentenced count are from the Island?)
4. Current resourced capacities at our women's centres (does Surrey still hold some women?)
5. Do we have per diems for women vs. men?
5. Do you have any Keep of Prisoner info on women - how many women spent how many nights in police cells in FY 13/14 for example? And do you have any access to current per diems for KOP? (I think they vary somewhat, don't they?)

Bill may want to add something to this. I know you are getting this request at the 11th hour and will be grateful for anything you can do. (You should know that the request for the Ministry to send a rep to the forum actually was made a couple of weeks ago)

Cheers, Steve

On 30-May-14, at 4:42 PM, Clark, Elenore JAG:EX wrote:

Hello Steve,

I hope you are well.

I wonder if you could provide me with Bill Foster's email. We've been asked to forward some information to him regarding the upcoming CCJA forum you are having next week and don't have his contact information.

Thanks

Elenore

**Elenore Clark | Provincial Director**  
Ministry of Justice | BC Corrections Branch  
Strategic Operations Division  
Phone s.17 | Mobile s.17

## 2014/15 ESTIMATES NOTE

## Female Remands – Vancouver Island

### Suggested Response:

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- On average, there is less than one BC Corrections adult female prisoner held in the Victoria Police Department lockup per day, representing a total cost to BC Corrections each year of approximately \$35,000.
- This is significantly less than building and/or operating a female remand centre in the Capital Region.

s.13

- There is an expectation that police agencies provide an adequate standard of care. These standards include:
  - Separation (by sight and sound) of female prisoners from male prisoners and of young persons from adults prisoners ;
  - Sufficient lighting and circulation of air;
  - Access to a toilet, wash basin or shower, and drinking water;
  - A bed and bedding for prisoners held in excess of 8 hours;

- Three meals to all prisoners during each 24 hour period, and;
- Constant monitoring of prisoners, including physical visual checks at least every 20 minutes.

s.13

**Background:**

- The Corrections Branch examined the feasibility of opening a unit in the Victoria Youth Custody Services Centre (VYCSC) or renovating a unit at Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre for female inmates. The number of female inmates remanded on Vancouver Island does not justify the expense of either option. s.13
- In 2013, there were 169 female inmates admitted to a correctional centre who had been remanded by a provincial court located on Vancouver Island.
- When planning for new correctional facilities, regional demand and economies of scale are always key considerations. We took this into account with the design of the new Okanagan Correctional Centre by incorporating a unit that will house female inmates.

Program Area Contact: Kirsten Peters

Telephone: s.17