



Minister's Office
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

December 31, 2019

Lynn McDonald
Campaign for the Abolition of Solitary Confinement
info@abolishsolitary.ca

Dear Ms. McDonald,

Re: Limits to Solitary Confinement

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 29, 2019, regarding limits to solitary confinement. I greatly appreciate your comments and feedback. I agree that the end of prolonged solitary confinement is an important step in corrections reform and I am pleased with the progress that Yukon has made in this area.

As you know, Yukon's amendments to the Corrections Act include provisions that require the Minister of Justice to conduct a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to segregation and restrictive confinement. These provisions ensure that the Government of Yukon is reflective of the changes made, so that it may continue to adjust and evolve its corrections practices.

I will note that, in the course of developing Yukon's new correctional legislation, a significant amount of research was conducted. This research revealed that no other Canadian jurisdiction has found it operationally feasible to restrict segregation so significantly while maintaining the safety of the correctional facility.

I can assure you that the Department of Justice is taking steps to improve supports for all individuals housed at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre in order to mitigate the harmful effects of segregation and incarceration more broadly. For instance, to better accommodate the custodial population, the Department of Justice is in the process of developing regulatory provisions that would enable the lawful creation of alternate housing options that will be tailored to meet the needs of those under the territory's custody and care.

Thank you again for your comments and valuable feedback.

Yours truly,

Tracy-Anne McPhee
Minister of Justice and Attorney General