

# Effectiveness of BC Community Corrections

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OFFICE OF THE  
**Auditor General**  
of British Columbia

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- The Auditor General is the independent auditor of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
- Reports to the Legislative Assembly, not to the government of the day
- Conducts both financial audits and performance (or “value for money”) audits



# Background

- Community Corrections and Corporate Programs division is responsible for supervising all adult offenders on a court order
- Purpose is to contribute to safer communities by assessing and managing the risks and needs of adult offenders
- Goal is to reduce rates of re-offending



# Purpose of the audit

- The purpose of this audit was twofold:
  - To determine whether the Community Corrections and Corporate Programs division is achieving its goal of reducing rates of re-offending for offenders serving community sentences.
  - To identify specific areas that may be impacting the division's effectiveness.



# Overall conclusion

- Unable to conclude whether CCCP has achieved its goal to reduce rates of re-offending.
- Identified areas that may be negatively impacting the division's effectiveness. These include the division's:
  - performance monitoring and evaluation framework
  - capacity assessment approach
  - quality of offender supervision
  - case management model



# Rates of re-offending

- Division has not analysed the role it plays in decreasing the re-offending rate by those who have served community sentences
- We could not conclude as to whether the CCCP has achieved its goal of reducing re-offences because the dynamic nature of how the rate is measured makes it difficult to confirm a trend
- CCCP division does not view the overall rate of re-offending as a key performance measure



# Monitoring and evaluation

- Division evaluates a considerable number of its core programs and pilot partnerships
- However, contracts and community programs and services are not evaluated for their effectiveness
- Results in an incomplete understanding of division's overall effectiveness



# Capacity assessment

- Division does not know how many resources it needs to be effective and sustainable in the long-term
- Current assessment too generalized
- Potential resourcing risks may be impacting the division's effectiveness





# Quality of Offender Supervision

- Probation officers (POs) are not consistently trained
  - Only 20% and 42% of POs that supervise sex offenders and domestic violence offenders respectively complete required training
- Quality assurance is not regularly completed



# Case management model

- Probation officers accurately assess offenders' risks and needs, but they are not fully addressed through interventions to rehabilitate offenders
- Offenders only complete 35% of assigned interventions
- Documentation is poor



# Summary of recommendations

1. Publicly reports its performance in reducing the overall rate of re-offending with a discussion of the role the CCCP plays, as well as the impact a performance measure that can change over time has on confirming program effectiveness.
2. Extends its evaluation framework to understand the effectiveness of contracted service providers and community programs in reducing re-offending
3. Completes a comprehensive impact assessment to determine if there are any gaps between its staff capacity and caseload level currently and in the future.
4. Confirms the courses required to supervise each case type and then update its policies to ensure probation officers complete the appropriate training before supervising offenders.



# Summary of recommendations

5. Strengthens its quality assurance model to ensure it is consistently applied and provides accurate and complete information on the quality of probation officers' work.
6. Ensures that probation officers thoroughly document their rationale for risk/needs assessment ratings and how offenders' risks and needs will be effectively addressed.
7. Ensures offenders receive and complete the interventions required in their case management plans.
8. Ensures that enforcement guidelines are consistently applied, and that all breaches are documented in compliance with policy.



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