

Correctional Services Canada

1. Name, address, telephone and website of the agency:

Metro Vancouver West Community Corrections | Services Correctionnels Communautaires,
Metro Vancouver - Ouest
Correctional Service Canada | Service Correctionnel Canada
401-877 Expo Boulevard
Vancouver, BC V6B 1K9
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Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

2. Name of the designated contact person.

Cindy Allan

3. Brief outline of the role of the agency.

Mission Statement

The Correctional Service of Canada, as part of the criminal justice system and respecting the rule of law, contributes to public safety by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens, while exercising reasonable, safe, secure and humane control.

Our clientele base is comprised of a severely marginalized population with significant need regarding life skills and community support. Much of the statistical information available regarding this population tells us the following;

A substantial need in educational upgrading is apparent; less than 75% of the men in this community have a high school diploma and computer proficiency is often non-existent.

A general lack of employability; many are without relevant skills and face difficulty attaining the most basic entry level positions.

Both family and community support is needed; the majority of our clients are products of abusive and neglectful early developmental years. As a result many have become isolated from family members and mistrustful of interacting with the larger community.

Basic life skills; through a cycle of institutionalization our clients have shown a lack of general knowledge that would promote independence. Many are at risk for homelessness, financially unaware and without a sense of self-advocacy that prevents them from taking steps to improve their lives.

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4. In-depth description of the tasks/role to be assigned to the student:

Metro Vancouver West Community Corrections Volunteer Program offers meaningful and challenging roles for volunteers interested in working with adults serving federal sentences.

MVWCC is the local office of The Correctional Service of Canada and supervises male offenders who are completing long term sentences on parole in the community.

Volunteers assist offenders in various roles, including:

- Providing mentorship and support to isolated offenders (One to one mentorship, coffee meetings)

- Assisting with facilitation of Life Skill programs (Running computer classes, cooking programs)

- Supporting clients at cultural events (Attending Indigenous focused events such as healing circles)

- Completing research and development of projects (Gathering info on overdose rates or reintegration)

- Acting as a liaison for offenders to support services (Helping an offender file a disability application)

- Participation in recreational activities (Organizing a soccer game or going bowling)

- Assisting offenders in accessing community resources (Taking an offender to an employment agency)

The activities take place at various locations such as the MVWCC Parole Office, local half-way houses or public spaces such as parks and libraries.

5. Any special requirements of the students:

- Activities are run weekdays and weekends, both during the day and some evenings.

- A car is recommended by not required.

- Students should be willing to submit to a security screening.

- Training is provided.