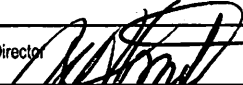


Chapter:	Legislation and Policy	Classification:	Public Document
Subject:	Vision, Mission and Key Principles		
For:	Entire Division	Authorized by Executive Director	

1. Policy

1.1 Correctional Services' mission, vision and key principles, and those of its components, are consistent with those of the Department of Justice, the Correctional Services Act and the Correctional Services Regulations.

2. Vision and Mission


2.1 **Departmental Vision:** The Department of Justice vision is that Nova Scotia is seen to be a place where people and there are respected. Justice will provide leadership in partnership with others to build a province where citizens trust the justice system, people are and feel safe and secure, disputes are effectively and sensitively resolved, access to justice processes are timely and affordable, communities actively participate in the justice system and diversity is valued and respected.

2.2 **Divisional Vision and Vision Narrative:** Correctional Services' vision is of a professional, properly trained, motivated staff team working in an integrated, focussed, equitable delivery system, providing cost-effective programs and services that are responsive to offenders and the public.

2.3 To accomplish our vision, Correctional Services will provide leadership in the delivery of

- 2.3.1 safe, secure correctional facilities and healthy, supportive correctional environments for offenders and staff
- 2.3.2 programs and services based on high standards to achieve positive change in offender behaviour and attitude
- 2.3.3 services which balance deterrence, punishment and rehabilitation
- 2.3.4 partnerships with other correctional and community-based agencies
- 2.3.5 integrated information and communication systems
- 2.3.6 achievement of goals and objectives through creativity, innovation and integrity in decision making
- 2.3.7 continuity and consistency in service delivery within and between operating units

Page: 1 of 3	Date Issued: July 1, 2007 Date of Last Revision: Current Revision Date: Dec 17, 2012	Subject No. 1.01.00
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Chapter:	Legislation and Policy	Classification:	Public Document
Subject:	Vision, Mission and Key Principles		
For:	Entire Division	Authorized by Executive Director	

- 2.4 **Mission:** The mission of Correctional Services is to contribute to the maintenance of a just, peaceful and safe society by
- 2.4.1 providing services to assist the courts in the remanding and sentencing processes
 - 2.4.2 administering community-and-custody-based sentences of the courts
 - 2.4.3 providing safe and secure custody, direction and control for the accused and convicted offenders
 - 2.4.4 providing programs that address dynamic criminogenic factors, and reintegration planning to facilitate the successful integration of offenders into the community

3. Key Principles

- 3.1 Our key principles which are reflected in the Division's policies, strategic planning, operations and management, are
- 3.1.1 respect for the rights and dignity of all those involved in the correctional process
 - 3.1.2 recognition that the offender remains a member of society and forfeits only those rights and privileged which are taken away by statute or those necessary because of court imposed custody or control
 - 3.1.3 use of the least restrictive actions needed to meet the legal requirements of the court disposition
 - 3.1.4 recognition that law abiding behavior is a matter of personal choice and individual responsibility
 - 3.1.5 provision of a favorable environment with encouragement and support from staff that meets the needs of offenders, encourages their participation in programs and helps result in a positive response
 - 3.1.6 use of services available to the public in the correctional process, whenever practical or possible
 - 3.1.7 shared responsibility and cooperative action among staff, the

Page: 2 of 3	Date Issued: July 1, 2007 Date of Last Revision: Current Revision Date: Dec 17, 2012	Subject No. 1.01.00
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Chapter:	Legislation and Policy	Classification:	Public Document
Subject:	Vision, Mission and Key Principles		
For:	Entire Division	Authorized by Executive Director	

- 3.1.8 community, other segments of the justice system, and offenders effective use of resources through data gathering and evaluation
- 3.1.9 positive working conditions and effective development for staff
- 3.1.10 safeguards for the use of discretion that is fair and seen as fair
- 3.1.11 accountability through regular independent and public assessment

3.2 Correctional Services recognizes the unique needs of female offenders, the need to identify gender-based differences and the practices that respond to these differences in both community and institutional settings. This includes

- 3.2.1 recognition of the unique needs of female offenders, which respect the differences between male and female offenders and the need for specialized programs and services for female offenders
- 3.2.2 provision of an environment that is safe, respectful, and constructive for female offenders
- 3.2.3 recognition of the diversity of our female offender population and the need for cultural competence by all staff
- 3.2.4 support for the relationship between female offenders and their children, families and communities

3.3 Correctional Services the unique needs of persons detained pursuant to the federal *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. This includes, to the extent possible and practical, and consistent with the safety and security, house immigration detainees

- 3.3.1 in units that limit their contact with offenders detained pursuant to criminal court matters, but not in a way which requires detainees to be isolated
- 3.3.2 of similar and compatible linguistic, ethnic or cultural backgrounds together

4. Youth Criminal Justice Act

4.1 The Declaration of Principles in section 3 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* are the principles for Correctional Services with respect to young persons.

Page: 3 of 3	Date Issued: July 1, 2007 Date of Last Revision: Current Revision Date: Dec 17, 2012	Subject No. 1.01.00
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