



Correctional Service Canada  
Service correctionnel Canada

Commissioner  
Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0P9

Commissaire

Your file      Votre référence

Our file      Notre référence

~~AUG~~ 10 2012

Mr. Todd Sloan  
Barrister and Solicitor  
Todd Sloan Legal Services  
680 Eagleson Road  
PO Box 45043  
Kanata (ON) K2M 2Y1

  
Dear Mr. Sloan:

In response to your letter of August 7, 2012 regarding concerns expressed to you by the Inmate Committee at Bath Institution regarding the reported limitations to Prisoner's Justice Day activities, I would like to thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention and providing an opportunity to clarify the Service's position on these matters.

As you are aware from your experience at the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), the Service does not have any one official policy that guides our approach to Prisoner's Justice Day. Rather, we have maintained a position of neutrality toward Prisoner's Justice Day, wherein activities to mark that event are neither explicitly supported nor opposed. Having said that, we maintain the prerogative and legislative authority to ensure that any such activities do not affect the safety and security of our institutions. As such, it is expected that organized activities planned by inmates will be reviewed and approved by the local management team.

In recent years, concerns have arisen regarding inmates planning activities and ordering clothing outside of the required procedures, resulting in unnecessarily inflammatory and inappropriate activities in some institutions, which in retrospect should not have occurred. In addition, a review of events from previous years highlights that practices varied considerably across the country. In light of these concerns, our Executive Committee directed that the Assistant Commissioner, Correctional Operations and Programs lead a discussion with the regional Assistant Deputy Commissioners, Institutional Operations to develop a more consistent approach.

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As a result of these discussions, it is my understanding that, based on the concerns above, two decisions were taken. First, it was decided that uniquely designed articles of clothing would not be supported for any activities in the future. This decision does not represent any specific change in policy, but rather strives to ensure national consistency in the application of our existing policy suite. In addition, the Assistant Deputy Commissioners were directed to ensure that procedures were in place to review and approve activities planned by inmates to mark Prisoner's Justice Day.

In discussion with regional managers, it appears that the direction provided to the inmates at Bath Institution may not have been accurately conveyed to you. In fact, the Inmate Committee at Bath Institution was asked to develop proposals for potential activities that would mark Prisoner's Justice Day. No proposals were submitted by the Committee. As such, to my knowledge, no official decision was rendered to support or prevent any local activities. Moreover, no direction has been issued that would preclude the participation of approved religious officials in institutional activities. On the contrary, I have been informed that the Chaplain is involved in an event that will be held in the afternoon.

Given the timing of our correspondence on this issue, it is not possible to adjust plans and activities for the current year. I would however encourage your clients to continue to work with the local management team to develop proposals for future Prisoner's Justice Day, if so desired.

I trust that the above information has been helpful. If you have further concerns, I would invite you to contact Chris Price, Assistant Commissioner, Correctional Operations and Programs at 613-943-0499 or at [pricecja@csc-scc.gc.ca](mailto:pricecja@csc-scc.gc.ca).

Sincerely



Don Head

c.c. Chris Price, Assistant Commissioner, Correctional Operations and Programs

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