



St. Leonard's  
Society of  
Canada

Société  
St-Léonard  
du Canada



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2022**

**RESPONSE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S TABLING OF THE *FEDERAL FRAMEWORK TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM***

**OTTAWA, ON/Algonquin Territory:** Yesterday, the Minister of Public Safety, the Honorable Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P. tabled the *Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR)* in Parliament. Since the *Reduction of Recidivism Framework Act* received Royal Assent nearly one year ago, the tabling of the FFRR has been highly anticipated by St. Leonard's Society of Canada (SLSC) and many other groups for its potential to generate meaningful criminal justice reform – particularly within the field of community corrections.

SLSC appreciated the opportunity to be engaged in the consultations with Public Safety Canada to discuss the key themes and priorities of the *FFRR*. Based on the details contained within the *FFRR*, the goal and guiding principles align with the reality that that **recidivism happens in the community**, and often as a result of systemic discrimination and lack of appropriate supports and resources.

Specifically, SLSC is encouraged that **the *FFRR* establishes a commitment to helping people access supports that set them up for success both in institutions and community settings**. SLSC is also supportive of addressing the housing insecurity that people face upon release. This includes greater efforts to provide transitional housing options – especially as they move from living in a Community-based Residential Facility (CRF) – to living independently in the community. Community-based agencies are well positioned to play a key role in meeting these commitments.

The *FFRR* notes that when people are released to the community to serve the remainder of their sentence on parole or statutory release, they must follow certain conditions and are supervised by parole officers. What is not acknowledged are the hundreds of CRFs across Canada, including those operated by SLSC's affiliates, that **provide complementary supervision and supports that are critical to the community integration process**. The Department of Public Safety establishes accountability through the *FFRR* to focus its efforts on five priority areas, or 'pillars': housing, education, employment, health, and positive support networks. To achieve meaningful results, these efforts must recognize that a significant opportunity exists to leverage the strong foundation that exists among community-based agencies. Every day in communities across Canada, these agencies already dedicate their efforts to addressing all five of these priority areas on behalf of the people they support.

For the *FFRR* to achieve its goal and be responsive to its enabling legislation, **the guiding principles must be at the core of the implementation plan**. SLSC looks forward to opportunities to be meaningfully engaged to add its voice to establishing a robust implementation plan that is grounded in evidence-based action.

**For more information please contact:**

Anita Desai  
Executive Director, SLSC  
(613) 612-1127

208 – 211 Bronson, Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5  
[info@stleonards.ca](mailto:info@stleonards.ca) | [www.stleonards.ca](http://www.stleonards.ca)