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Ted Hsu

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KINGSTON, Ontario
June 25th, 2014

Honourable Steven Blaney
Minister of Public Safety
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Dear Minister Blaney,

I am writing to you regarding the impending closure of the Hamilton Correctional Community Centre, and the effect that this may have on the number of half-way house offenders in Kingston.

In an effort to reintegrate certain offenders who are released from medium or maximum security institutions, half-way house offenders are placed in communities where they have family support and where they are most likely to work on securing future employment. This practice is not only an important component of the reintegration process, but one which minimizes the security risk for the host community.

It has come to my attention that Correctional Service Canada may no longer be converting the Phoenix Unit of Frontenac institution into a minimum security facility. I am interested in whether this is being done to accommodate the relocation of offenders from the Hamilton Correctional Community Centre. If this is the case, the number of half-way house offenders in Kingston will be double the current level. I am concerned that the influx of new half-way house offenders may be at a higher risk of reoffending if they are originally from the Hamilton or Greater Toronto Area, and therefore separated from their social supports. As such, I would greatly appreciate if you could provide my office with the following information:


- 1) Does Correctional Service Canada intend to increase the number of half-way house offenders in Kingston due to the closure of the Hamilton Correctional Community Centre?
- 2) If half-way house offenders are relocated to Kingston, approximately how many will be from the Hamilton or Greater Toronto Area? Approximately how many new half-way house offenders will be from Kingston and the Eastern Ontario region?
- 3) Will Correctional Service Canada convert the Phoenix Unit into a living unit for the minimum security institution, or will it be used to accommodate offenders that would have been sent to the Hamilton Correctional Community Centre?



I note that the new Boys and Girls Club of Kingston centre will be opening across the street at the Frontenac Mall.

I have copied Mike Ryan, Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Ontario Region, Correctional Service Canada, on this letter. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns and I look forward to a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Hsu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the "T".

Ted Hsu, M.P.

/sp

Cc: Mike Ryan, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Ontario Region, Correctional Services Canada