



**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations
in Advance of the Upcoming Federal Budget**

By: The Fresh Start Coalition

Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada acts immediately to amend the *Criminal Records Act* and implement a free and automatic spent record process, turning to the model outlined in Bill S-212.

Recommendation 2: That, after implementing a free and automatic spent record process, the Government of Canada reallocates funding from the Parole Board of Canada and civil society record suspension support programs to support the priorities outlined in the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism.

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Background	4
Alignment with Canada’s Commitments to Reconciliation and to Addressing Systemic Racism and Discrimination	6
Cost Benefits of a Free and Automatic Spent Record Process.....	8
Alignment with Canada’s Economic Plan.....	10
Readiness and Support for Reform	11
Bill S-212	13
Alignment with the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR).....	15
Appendices.....	16
Appendix A: List of Fresh Start Coalition Members	16

Introduction

One in nine people in Canada have a criminal record.¹ A criminal record creates [significant barriers](#) to employment, housing, education, travel, and other social domains.

Furthermore, the current record suspension application process [makes it very difficult](#) for many people to reduce these barriers and, therefore, works against Canada's goals of building a strong middle class and an economy that works for everyone.

In 2015, Canadians elected a federal government that [promised to reform the *Criminal Records Act*](#) after acknowledging the punitiveness of the current record suspension regime. While the government has taken some steps to fulfill this promise, further action is necessary.

This pre-budget submission outlines the economic and social benefits of reforming Canada's [Criminal Records Act](#). It calls for the government to act on its promise of easing the burden of the stigma associated with a criminal record by implementing a [free and automatic spent record process](#). Additionally, the recommendations within this submission offer the Government of Canada an opportunity to reallocate existing funding commitments from grant programs that support record suspension applicants into the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR).

Prioritizing [comprehensive reform of the *Criminal Records Act*](#) in Budget 2024 is a timely and much-needed government action. The current record suspension regime is costly and unproductive and contributes to the ongoing discrimination and exclusion of approximately 4 million Canadians. A free and automatic spent record process aligns with the Government's commitments to Reconciliation and addressing systemic racism.

These reforms will save Canadians a *minimum* of \$25 million over the next five years.

This submission has been prepared by the [Fresh Start Coalition](#) (FSC), a coalition of more than 90 civil society organizations, people with lived expertise, and other interested individuals who call for the government to implement a free and automatic spent record process.² Many within the coalition have been working together on this issue for over a decade and are eager to see real and meaningful change on an issue that impacts millions of people across Canada, their families, and communities.

¹ Approximately 3.8 million Canadians: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/trnsprnc/brfng-mtrls/trnstn-bndrs/20191120/017/index-en.aspx>.

² See [Appendix A](#) for a complete list of supporting organizations and individuals.

Background

A record suspension, formerly known as a pardon, sets aside criminal convictions in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC). Setting aside these records helps prevent unnecessary disclosures that contribute to ongoing exclusion and punishment from employment, housing, and other social domains. To access a record suspension, people must apply to the [Parole Board of Canada](#) five or ten years following the expiry of their sentence (depending on sentence severity) and the payment of all applicable fines, victim surcharges, costs, restitution, and compensation orders.

The process of applying for a record suspension is [expensive, burdensome, lengthy, and traumatizing](#) for many who have already completed their sentences and are now [trying to move on with their lives](#).³ To initiate the record suspension application process, people must get fingerprints taken, obtain a physical copy of their record of conviction, contact the court(s) in which their case(s) was heard, ensure there are no discrepancies in information about court and conviction records, complete a local police records check, fill out an application form, and pay the required fees.

In 2016, Ralph Goodale (then Minister of Public Safety) stated that the record suspension regime was “punitive” and [agreed that changes were needed](#). In January 2022, the application fee was [reduced from \\$657.77 to \\$50.00](#), and later that same year, it was announced that [\\$18 million](#) would be granted to various civil society organizations over the next four years to implement programs that support people in navigating the complicated and burdensome application process. While the FSC applauds these steps to increase access to the human rights protections offered by record suspensions, further action is needed to eliminate what is currently (and problematically) a two-tiered system.

A series of provincial and federal constitutional challenges, public consultations, and ongoing engagement sessions between Public Safety Canada and community-based organizations and people with lived and living experiences of criminalization and incarceration have demonstrated the [need for meaningful changes to the record suspension regime](#). More specifically, advocates from across Canada are urging the federal government to implement a free and automatic spent record process. Diverse stakeholder groups belonging to the FSC and beyond strongly support these urgently needed changes.

Furthermore, the creation of the [Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism](#) (FFRR) in 2022 indicates that the federal government and Public Safety Canada are interested in acting more intentionally to reduce the [collateral consequences of punishment](#) in Canada. In [response to a public petition](#) from the FSC calling for the Government of Canada to implement a free and automatic spent record process, the Minister of Public Safety,

³ All of the instructions and forms required to apply for a record suspension can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/services/record-suspensions.html>

Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs confirmed the link between our recommendations and the FFRR.

To help address these issues, the Minister of Public Safety tabled the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism in Parliament on June 22, 2022. It identifies crucial factors that impact why people reoffend and how to support safe and successful reintegration into the community. The Framework, developed in consultation with a diverse array of stakeholders, outlined five priority themes key to the successful reintegration of individuals and to community safety including: housing, education, employment, health, and positive support networks. Additionally, the Framework highlighted the need to address the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples, Black Canadians, and other marginalized groups in Canada's criminal justice system.

To support the Framework, a federal Implementation Plan was shared on the Public Safety website on November 15, 2023. The Plan looks to federal programs and processes, primarily within the Public Safety portfolio, to identify actions that will support individuals that are reintegrating in the community, including accessing housing, supporting individuals in finding employment and in building positive connections in the community.

Eliminating the barriers to successful reintegration caused by the current record suspension application process will support any future investments made to implement the FFRR.

In the following sections of this submission, we build on the background information provided here by highlighting specifically how implementing a free and automatic spend record process aligns with Canada's commitments to Reconciliation and addressing systemic racism and discrimination and allows for better investments of public monies in initiatives that actually contribute to public safety and well-being.

Alignment with Canada’s Commitments to Reconciliation and to Addressing Systemic Racism and Discrimination

Implementing a free and automatic spent record process will directly address Call to Action #30 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#):

We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade, and to issue detailed annual reports that monitor and evaluate progress in doing so.

While [Indigenous Peoples](#) comprise approximately 5% of the general population, they constitute 32% of Canada’s prison population overall and [50% of federally sentenced people in prisons designated for women](#). This mass incarceration is maintained in part by [cycles of criminalization](#), where Indigenous Peoples cannot always reconnect with their communities following a criminal conviction and period of incarceration because of the [ongoing barriers and stigma](#) they face due to the legacy of colonization in Canada.

If the federal government takes its [commitments to Reconciliation](#) seriously, it must consider comprehensive reform of the *Criminal Records Act* as one of many required actions on the path forward.

In Canada, [Black individuals are also at greater risk of arrest](#) and of becoming stuck in cycles of criminalization and incarceration. “[Anti-Black racism](#) impacts Black Canadians at every step of the criminal justice system, from policing to pretrial detention to sentencing to prisons.” Furthermore, having a criminal record [amplifies experiences of discrimination](#) from various social domains – such as employment and housing – and therefore contributes to higher rates of unemployment, homelessness, and poverty for Black and racialized people.

Public Safety Canada recognizes lasting criminal records as a direct result of systemic racism within Canada’s legal and prison system, writing: “[lingering criminal records have led to the overrepresentation of Indigenous, Black and other racialized individuals in our criminal justice system](#).” In the 2020 Throne Speech, the Government of Canada emphasized the connection between systemic racism and criminal records, stating that

All Canadians must have the confidence that the justice system is there to protect them, not to harm them. The fact that Black Canadians and Indigenous Peoples are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, must change.

The Government is committed to taking steps to ensure that the strong hand of criminal justice is used where it is needed to keep people safe, but not where it would be discriminatory or counterproductive. It will do so through the introduction of legislation and investment making that takes action to address the systemic inequities in all phases of the criminal justice system, from diversion to sentencing and from rehabilitation to records.

While acknowledgements and apologies are regularly issued regarding the experiences and treatment of Black people in the criminal justice system, “[apologies, on their own do not right wrongs](#). And they certainly don’t create the systemic changes needed to address anti-Black racism in policing or the rest of the criminal justice system.” The creation of a free and automatic spent record process is just one of many tangible actions that the federal government can take to address historical and ongoing harms caused by discriminatory and racist policies and practices.

Comprehensive reforms to the *Criminal Records Act* will also alleviate barriers for other groups who are overrepresented in Canada’s prisons: people with disabilities, people with precarious immigration, citizenship, or migratory status, people experiencing homelessness, people who use drugs, people living with mental illness, 2SLGBTQ+ people, and people living at the intersection of these identities. Furthermore, [low education and literacy levels among incarcerated people](#) and histories of trauma (including experiences of physical and sexual violence) impact one’s ability to successfully navigate the complicated and onerous record suspension application process.

Our recommendations to implement a free and automatic spent record process and allocate funding and resources to the FFRR will increase access to justice and human rights protections for people facing multiple and intersecting barriers and layers of discrimination in the community.

Cost Benefits of a Free and Automatic Spent Record Process

Reforming the *Criminal Records Act* and implementing a free and automatic spent record process is socially and economically beneficial to Canadians.

First, these reforms will reduce ongoing economic and social costs for [up to 200,000 eligible people in Canada annually](#) who will benefit from a free and automatic process. These individuals will no longer face the significant barriers created by lasting criminal records and their associated stigma and will no longer be required to navigate the complicated process or pay for the various costs associated with each step of the application.⁴

Often, individuals discover through the application process that they have [unpaid fines](#) that they were unaware were attached to their convictions. Many others do not have the finances to pay restitution orders and become ineligible for record suspension by virtue of living in poverty. Note that eligibility timelines take effect 5 to 10 years following the completion of a sentence, which includes the payment of fines, victim surcharges, and restitution orders. When someone is unaware of fines before submitting a record suspension application (something that happens [quite often](#)), their timeline resets.

There are many indirect costs to lasting criminal records for individuals and society. When people cannot fully and meaningfully contribute to the economy, our country loses the promise of each of these individuals, [missing tremendous opportunities for the over 4 million Canadians with records to develop their vocational skills](#). Economic exclusion can also impact mental health, as stigma contributes to experiences of anxiety and depression.

Next, these reforms will create [at least \\$5 million annually](#) in savings to the Canadian public by relieving the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) of significant resource constraints flowing from requirements for Board Members to review record suspension applications.⁵ Currently, administrative employees of the PBC are not permitted to handle record suspensions. Every application must be individually reviewed by PBC Board Members, whose [salaries range](#) between \$141,700 and \$166,000 (for full-time employees). This requirement contributes to significant overhead attributed to record suspensions, both in the time and the dollars required to process record suspension applications.

⁴ While the record suspension application fee was reduced to \$50 in 2022, other costs are still associated with the process. Typically, people spend between \$250 and \$400 when applying for a record suspension.

⁵ This estimate is based on a report from the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer that was commissioned in relation to [Bill S-208](#). We note that this estimation was calculate prior to the user fee reduction in January 2022. With fees restored to \$50.00, the anticipated increase in applications will also increase the annual operational costs incurred by the PBC.

Finally, these reforms will eliminate the need for government investment into civil society record suspension application support programs. To alleviate the known barriers associated with the current criminal record regime, in 2022, the government made a significant funding commitment to civil society organizations of \$18 million over four years. However, some recipients of this funding note that the presence of their support programs is not enough to compete against the many hurdles associated with record suspension applications.

Overall, this investment contributes to an already expensive regime and responds to an already costly problem by putting a heftier price tag on it. Civil society organizations that receive this funding are simultaneously underfunded in many of their core programs, programs that increase the safety and well-being of individuals, families, and communities across Canada and that align with the FFRR.

Alignment with Canada's Economic Plan

Reforming the *Criminal Records Act* and implementing a free and automatic spent record process strongly aligns with the Government of Canada's economic plan and key goal to build an economy that works for all Canadians. Here, we outline how our recommendations contribute to Canada's Housing Action Plan, support a strong middle class and an economy that works for all, and offer a more efficient and effective approach to supporting safe reintegration and reducing recidivism.

The federal government is taking action to implement Canada's Housing Action Plan, yet criminal records create barriers to individuals gaining access to safe and secure housing. Pathways into criminalization and incarceration are directly impacted by social insecurity. [Safe and secure housing is a key determinant of successful community re-entry](#), but it is often more difficult for those with a criminal record to find housing. [Applications for apartment rentals can ask if prospective tenants have criminal records](#), leaving those with records in a state of reduced choice and increased vulnerability related to housing.

The government is committed to making a strong middle class and an economy that works for all, yet lasting criminal records prevent meaningful economic contribution through barriers to employment. [Finding meaningful employment is a significant problem for individuals with criminal records](#). More and more employers are including background checks in the hiring process, and many will “[simply decline to hire individuals with criminal records](#).”

Allowing individuals to have their conviction records sealed in CPIC through a more streamlined and accessible process will increase access to human rights protections. Without such protections, millions of Canadians will “[continue to experience a denial of liberties](#),” increasing the chances that they remain caught up in a cycle of incarceration, poverty, and homelessness.

Finally, **the government is committed to being efficient and effective, yet the record suspension regime is being administered through an antiquated and unnecessarily bureaucratic process.** The application and review process produces significant costs and administrative burdens and actively works against the goals of efficiency and effectiveness within the federal government. Moreover, the process places a tremendous burden on Indigenous, Black, and cumulatively disadvantaged people who are more likely to be arrested, convicted, and incarcerated in Canada. A free and automatic spent record process is far more efficient and effective and will significantly reduce experiences of discrimination and exclusion.

Readiness and Support for Reform

The movement toward a free and automatic spent record process has been building in Canada for [over a decade](#). [Constitutional challenges](#), [public consultations](#), and ongoing engagement sessions between Public Safety Canada and community-based groups and organizations and people with lived and living experiences of criminalization and incarceration have demonstrated the [need for meaningful changes to the record suspension regime](#).

In 2017, Public Safety Canada published the [results of a consultation process](#) conducted in 2016 “regarding a review of legislative reforms made during the last ten years concerning the Record Suspension Program.” The key findings from this consultation indicate that 83% of participants support an automatic spent record process for certain conviction records. Furthermore, 74% of participants agreed that the record suspension application process was “very hard,” and there was strong support for streamlining the process.

In 2022, Public Safety Canada completed another public consultation process, focusing on the [Automatic Sequestering of Criminal Records](#). The final report for this consultation also demonstrates strong support for an automatic spent record process.

Individuals won't have to fill out endless forms, collect records, pay fees, hire lawyers, get fingerprinted, and so on. The removal of human discretion from record suspension decisions will reduce bias, resulting in more people in marginalized communities receiving record suspensions, helping them with housing, employment, citizenship and reducing recidivism.

ASCR will speed up the process and possibly eliminate or reduce the long wait times now in effect.

Families can be greatly impacted by the stigma from a criminal record. ASCR will lessen the burden of stigma on families. For example, some women have been unfairly co-charged along with an abusive partner. A quick and unbiased record suspension process could help restore fairness and reduce stigma.

Participants in this consultation confirmed that “the current record suspension system is designed to fail – especially for racialized and marginalized groups.” They emphasized that an automatic spent record regime reflects the evidence and best practices for reducing stigma and supporting safe reintegration.

Support for comprehensive reforms to the *Criminal Records Act* is not hard to find. Several members of the FSC have written publicly about the need for and benefits of a free and automatic spent record process:

- [Don't let cabinet shuffle delay reform on sealing criminal records](#), Samantha McAleese, Assistant Professor, Brock University.
- [Canada's criminal justice system is racist. We need more than apologies to fix it](#), Moya Teklu, Executive Director, Black Legal Action Centre; Khaldah Salih, Communications and Outreach Specialist, Black Legal Action Centre.
- [Sealing criminal records of marginalized people will improve many lives](#), Emilie Coyle, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies; Pamela Cross, Legal Director, Luke's Place; Pam Hrick, Executive Director, Women's Legal Education Action Fund.
- [A criminal record shouldn't follow people for life](#), Samantha McAleese, Assistant Professor, Brock University.
- [Canada's criminal record suspension system requires reform](#), Ralph Mastromonaco, Lawyer at Cabinet Légal Mastromonaco and Faculty at McGill University.

It is also important to note that our recommended reforms align with processes that we see in other jurisdictions like [Australia](#) and [the United Kingdom](#), as well as a growing number of cities and states across [the United States](#). While Canada's pardon system was once viewed as "a successful approach" to reintegration,⁶ the record suspension regime that replaced it is unnecessarily punitive and has [never received the same level of public support](#).

⁶ Ruddell, R., & Winfree Jr, L. T. (2006). Setting aside criminal convictions in Canada: A successful approach to offender reintegration. *The Prison Journal*, 86(4), 452-469.

Bill S-212

The pathway to a free and automatic spent record regime has been outlined in detail in [Bill S-212: An Act to amend the Criminal Records Act, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and to repeal a regulation](#). Senator Kim Pate introduced this Bill in November 2021. The Bill has been studied by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs and is now in the report stage.

As the sponsor of the Bill, Senator Kim Pate has offered [the following remarks](#) on the importance of a free and automatic spent record process:

This bill will remove unnecessary obstacles to community integration for those with criminal records who have been held accountable for their actions, have fulfilled all aspects of their sentences and are trying to move on with their lives.

Bill S-212 proposes three key measures: one, the expiry of records rather than mere suspension, with some limited exceptions for records related to sexual assault; two, a return to the original wait periods for the Criminal Records Act, namely, two years for summary convictions and five years for indictable offences; and three, the shifting of responsibility to government actors to ensure expiry of records once these wait periods elapse without subsequent convictions or charges, rather than putting the onus on individuals to shoulder the current costly and onerous application process.

Bill S-212 underscores that record relief is a matter of justice and fairness, and should not be a matter of privilege accessible only to the most well-resourced. It acknowledges and seeks to redress the role of the current records system in entrenching systemic racism. It rejects knee-jerk reactions and assumptions about what it means to be tough on crime and insists on following the facts and adopting policies that will actually make communities safer and more just for all of us. It also saves money and resources, both for the people in need of record relief and for the government.

Throughout the study of S-212 by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Senators heard support from various organizations and individuals, including:

- **Benjamin Roebuck**, Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime
- **Sheila Wildeman**, Associate Professor, Schulich School of Law (Dalhousie University)
- **Laura Berger**, Staff Lawyer (Canadian Civil Liberties Association)
- **Catherine Latimer**, Executive Director (John Howard Society of Canada)
- **Samantha McAleese**, Adjunct Research Professor and Instructor (Department of Sociology Carleton University)
- **Rosemarie Davis**, Vice President (Canadian Association of Black Lawyers)
- **Tony Paisana**, Executive Member, Criminal Justice Section (Canadian Bar Association)
- **Raphael Tachie**, President (Canadian Association of Black Lawyers)
- **Tareq Bawwab**, Member, Community Expertise Committee (Fresh Start Coalition)
- **Rachel Fayter**, PhD Candidate (University of Ottawa)
- **Laurel McBride**, Collective Member (Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter)
- **Khalidah Salih**, Community Legal Worker (Black Legal Action Centre)

Testimony from these experts emphasizes what we have outlined elsewhere in this submission. For example, [Benjamin Roebuck](#) acknowledged “the colonial violence imposed on Indigenous peoples and how this continues in the over-representation of Indigenous peoples in the criminal justice system and the disproportionate impact of criminal records.” He described criminal records as “a blunt instrument applied to a wide range of people who come into contact with the justice system” - including victims, specifically in cases of intimate partner violence.

[Khalidah Salih](#) highlighted concerns “with the current criminal records system because of the reality and impacts of the continued criminalization of Black people. The documented disproportionate rates of Black people in federal prisons exemplifies the systemic racism inherent in the criminal justice process, from the higher policing of Black communities to the higher likelihood of Black people receiving harsher sentences.” [Raphael Tachie](#) echoed this in their testimony and agreed that S-212 “would help address inequities and systemic biases in our criminal justice system that disproportionately impact Black individuals.”

The testimony that the Senate Committee heard from people with lived experience of criminalization is also notable. [Tareq Bawwab and Rachel Fayter](#) shared the impacts of the record suspension regime on their lives and those of others with criminal records. Both support a more streamlined process as the current “punitive policies and practices do not contribute to public safety.”

Alignment with the Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (FFRR)

The FFRR was established in 2022. [Former Minister of Public Safety, Marco Mendicino](#), wrote that:

The Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism is the Government of Canada's first step in putting together a plan that identifies crucial factors that impact why people reoffend and how to support safe and successful reintegration into the community. The goal: increase public safety by reducing recidivism, preventing victimization, addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous People, Black Canadians and other marginalized groups in our criminal justice system, and ultimately, create safer communities.

The FFRR demonstrates that the federal government and Public Safety Canada are interested in acting more intentionally to reduce the collateral consequences of criminal convictions in Canada. The government recognizes that criminal records prevent people from moving on with their lives and are a causal factor in cycles of crime and incarceration. Eliminating the barriers caused by criminal records is a key piece of the solution to Canada's recidivism problem.

While switching to a free and automatic spent record process will require initial overhead costs, similar modernization strategies are underway across many areas of government, including within the Correctional Service of Canada, [which shares federal responsibility for the FFRR](#). It does not stand to reason that it is feasible to modernize prison data infrastructure and not record data infrastructure.

The five pillars recognized to prevent recidivism within the FFRR (**housing, education, employment, health, and positive support network**) represent the same needs adversely impacted by lasting criminal records. Presently, no dollars have been committed to advance the FFRR.

The government has provided short-term funding to civil society organizations for programs to deal with the inaccessibility of the record suspension regime. Yet these same organizations have long called for comprehensive reforms to the *Criminal Records Act*. Simultaneously, people also want to see stable investment in the programs that actually work to keep people safe. By implementing a free and automatic spent record regime, there will be no need for future million-dollar investments to help individuals understand and navigate the application process. Instead, this money can be directed to support the pillars of the FFRR and upstream resources proven to prevent harm and keep communities safe and well.

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Fresh Start Coalition Members

Aboriginal Legal Services
Alliance for Healthier Communities
Alter Justice
Assaulted Women's Helpline
Association des avocats de la défense de Montréal-Laval-Longueuil
Association des avocats de la défense de Québec
Association des avocats et avocates en droit carcéral du Québec
Association des services de réhabilitation sociale du Québec (ASRSQ)
Association québécoise des avocats et avocates de la défense
Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic
Bethesda House
Black Community Action Network Peel
Black Legal Action Centre
British Columbia Civil Liberties Association
Canadian Association of Black Lawyers
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies
Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs (CAPUD)
Canadian Association of Social Workers
Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Canadian Council of Muslim Women
Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
Canadian Mental Health Association National
Canadian Mental Health Association Ontario
Canadian Prison Law Association
Cannabis Amnesty
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
Centre for Justice Exchange
Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE)
Clinique juridique de Saint-Michel
Criminal Lawyers' Association
Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton
Elizabeth Fry Society of Kamloops
Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia
Elizabeth Fry Society of New Brunswick
Elizabeth Fry Society of Newfoundland and Labrador
Elizabeth Fry Society of Northeastern Ontario
Elizabeth Fry Society of Northern Alberta
Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
Elizabeth Fry Society of Quebec

Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
Elliot Lake Women's Group Inc.
Empowerment Council
Grassroots NB
Halton Community Legal Services
Health Justice Program
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
HIV Legal Network
Hope 24/7
Huron Women's Shelter
Inasmuch House & Women's Services, Mission Services of Hamilton
Indigenous Bar Association
John Howard Society of British Columbia
John Howard Society of Canada
John Howard Society of New Brunswick
John Howard Society of Ontario
John Howard Society of Quebec
John Howard Society of Saskatchewan
Keep6ix
Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
Lanark County Interval House
Ligue des droits et libertés
Luke's Place
Mothers Offering Mutual Support (MOMS)
Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services
Neighbourhood Legal Services
Network of Women with Disabilities NOW
Niagara Community Legal Clinic
Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness
Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses
Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women
PASAN
Peel Alliance to End Homelessness
Prisoners' Legal Services
Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan
Queen's Prison Law Clinic
Resolve Counselling Services
Saint John Learning Exchange
Saskatchewan Literacy Network
Social Economy Through Social Inclusion Coalition (SETSI)
St. Leonard's Society of Canada
Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society

Timmins and Area Women in Crisis
Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project
Victim Services of Durham Region
West Island Black Community Association
Women & Children's Shelter of Barrie
Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF)
Women's Shelters Canada
YWCA Cambridge

Individual Members:

Mike Federico, former Deputy Chief, Toronto Police Service
Samantha McAleese, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Brock University
Brenda Young, Justice Director, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation