

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur Général

Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Services  
200 First Avenue West  
North Bay ON P1B 3B9

Services d'accès à l'information et de la  
Protection de la vie privée  
200 First Avenue West  
North Bay ON P1B 3B9



Telephone (705) 494-3080

Toll Free 1-855-273-3080

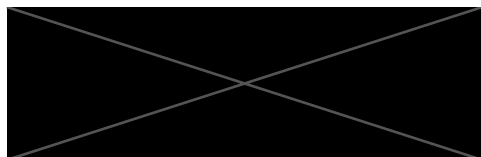
Email: [FOI.SOLGEN@ONTARIO.CA](mailto:FOI.SOLGEN@ONTARIO.CA)

Téléphone (705) 494-3080

Sans Frais 1-855-273-3080

Courriel: [FOI.SOLGEN@ONTARIO.CA](mailto:FOI.SOLGEN@ONTARIO.CA)

March 19, 2026



Dear Mackenzie Plumb:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST NUMBER GRSG-2025-01059**

---

This letter is in response to your request submitted to the Ministry of the Solicitor General (the Ministry) under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act).

Your request is for access to records pertaining to transition binders prepared for Minister Michael Kerzner related to jail, detention centre, correctional centre, and treatment centre infrastructure projects when first appointed Solicitor General in June 2022 and was re-appointed in this role in February 2025. Please be advised that total access is granted to the requested records.

Attached is a copy of the records being released. This access decision was made by the undersigned. You are entitled to appeal this decision within 30 days to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario (IPC)  
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400  
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8  
(416) 326-3333 / Toll Free: 1-800-387-0073  
Online: [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca)

Should you decide to file an appeal, please provide the IPC with the following information:

- 1) a copy of this decision letter;
- 2) a copy of your request for access to information;
- 3) the mandatory appeal fee of \$25.00 in the form of a cheque or money order payable to the Minister of Finance.

.../2

Mackenzie Plumb  
Page two

Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Buttigieg, Senior Program Analyst and Advisor, at (705) 495-8020 or [Tracy.Buttigieg@ontario.ca](mailto:Tracy.Buttigieg@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Buttigieg".

Noel Kent  
Senior Manager  
Freedom of Information and  
Protection of Privacy Services

Attachment

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**  
**Transition Binder: Correctional Services**  
**March 2025**

# Ministry of the Solicitor General

Correctional Services:  
Infrastructure

February 2025

Ontario 

# Context

- SOLGEN's capital program includes repair and renewal, modernization, expansion and new major capital projects, to address capacity challenges and ensure facilities across the province can meet modern operational needs.
- This deck will provide an overview of:
  - Current state and key issues.
  - SOLGEN's 3-phase approach to building capacity.
  - Major project delivery.
  - Major infrastructure projects.
  - Capital rehabilitation and repairs (R&R).
  - Corrections Centre for Professional Advancement and Training (CCPAT).

# Current State and Key Issues

- Ontario's adult correctional institutions are experiencing significant capacity challenges (i.e., there are approximately 2,000 more inmates than beds — the equivalent of 5 large jails). Additionally, aging facilities are not conducive to the needs of a modernized correctional system (e.g., insufficient space for programming, inefficient paper-based processes and record-keeping, lack of Wi-Fi to support video courts, visits, and electronic medical records).
- There are considerable differences between the regions, sizes and ages of adult correctional institutions, resulting in challenges delivering consistent services across the province along with creating unique infrastructure demands.\*
- Complex factors are driving capacity challenges, including:
  - Backlog in the court system resulting in more people on remand awaiting court proceedings (~80% of people in custody).
  - People remaining in custody for longer.
  - Broader changes in the justice system (e.g., enforcement of guns and gangs and auto theft, bail reforms, population growth, and increasing rates of serious crime).
- SOLGEN's capital program includes:
  - **Repair and renewal** — Correctional institutions are heavily used 24 hours a day/365 days a year. At any point in time SOLGEN has approximately 500 small and medium works underway for repair and renewal, many of which are multi year. Approximately 200 projects are completed each year.
  - **Modernization** — Modernization capital projects include the goal of having Wi-Fi in all adult correctional facilities, 100% CCTV coverage, and programming space to support meaningful time out of cell. In new projects it includes risk-classified housing units, open visitation spaces, health services on-site and improved personal and professional staff areas.
  - **Expanded and New Facilities** — SOLGEN has a 3-phase approach to meeting institutional capacity needs that will deliver between 4,670-5,670 beds by 2050. See next slide.

\*See **Appendix A and B** for more details.

# Building to Meet Capacity Needs – 3-Phase Approach

- **Phase 1**, currently-approved projects will result in 1,170\* new beds by 2032 through the following major infrastructure projects with an estimated total project cost of \$4B (currently \$2.9B approved):
  - **New** Thunder Bay Correctional Complex (substantial completion, fall 2026), replacing Thunder Bay Jail and Thunder Bay Correctional Centre.
  - **New** Brockville Correctional Complex (substantial completion, spring 2031), replacing Brockville Jail.
  - **New** Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex (substantial completion, fall 2032).
  - **New Modular Build Facilities** will add capacity at existing sites (substantial completion, fall 2027) in Niagara, Milton (Vanier/Maplehurst), and Sudbury.
  - **Repurposing** intermittent centres as full-time correctional capacity at the Toronto Intermittent Centre (TIC) and Regional Intermittent Centre (RIC) in London.
  - **Expansion** of Quinte Detention Centre and St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre.
- Phase 1 projects will provide incremental relief in our overcrowded facilities. However, the need is growing over the next 10 years, and another 3,500-4,500 beds are still required.
- **Phase 2** is expected to deliver an estimated 1,500 beds at 6 sites between 2033 and 2041, through a combination of expansions and new institutions. SOLGEN is currently in the pre-planning stage for these projects.
- **Phase 3** will deliver another 2,000-3,000 beds between 2040 and 2050. The ministry is currently considering the opportunity to design for a new operating model that emphasizes our role in health care, rehabilitation, reintegration, and design for a technology-forward carceral environment.

\*Bed numbers do not account for downsizing of the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre targeted for Spring 2033. See **Appendix C** for ongoing infrastructure projects.

# Major Project Delivery

- The completion of major capital projects, such as the construction or expansion of institutions, is a complex process, requiring coordination within the ministry and with other government partners, such as Infrastructure Ontario (IO).

## SOLGEN's Role

- Identifies and prioritizes infrastructure needs, such as capacity/service level challenges, maintenance, and program/service requirements.
- Provides the corporate financial, policy and program oversight.

SOLGEN works with IO to determine how to deliver the project (e.g., through P3, traditional or progressive delivery model) based on the scale and scope of the work.

## IO's Role

- For major projects, leads a public tendering process based on the specifications provided by SOLGEN and provides oversight of the construction project.

## **Duty to Consult**

- Indigenous communities in Ontario have rights protected by **s. 35 of the Constitution**. These rights encompass cultural rights, social rights, and land-based rights (from ownership to the use of lands for hunting, fishing and gathering).
- **The underlying objectives of s.35 is reconciliation**; all relevant ministries must balance Indigenous rights with broader societal interest.
- Requirements and time needed to meet the DTC depend on complexity of the situation.

# Capital Rehabilitation and Repairs (R&R)

- An aging and large portfolio requires increased capital investment to maintain/repair assets and mitigate liabilities.
- SOLGEN receives base Rehabilitation and Repairs (R&R) funding to address emergent issues and wear and tear on facilities across the province operating 24/7/365. It also directs funding to infrastructure initiatives within correctional institutions, such updating technology and program space.
- The Capital Repair & Renewal program is used to address health and safety issues, ministry of labour orders, office fit-ups, and major renovations, as well as some deferred maintenance.
- The current Correctional Capital Budget for repair and maintenance is **\$7M annually**.

## R&R Drivers

- Facility upkeep.
- Health and safety concerns.
- Ontario Ombudsman complaints.

## Current Initiatives (approx. 2,000 annually)

- Electronic Security Systems.
- Wi-Fi.
- Video Courts.
- Parking Lots.

### Corrections Centre for Professional Advancement and Training

- In addition to adult correctional institutions, the ministry is also responsible for training facilities (leased or fit up spaces) to accommodate core and specialized training for correctional officer recruits, existing correctional officers, and probation and parole officers.
- This training is provided by the Corrections Centre for Professional Advancement and Training (CCPAT), which also recruits correctional officers.
- SOLGEN is currently working with Infrastructure Ontario to lease and fit-up additional training space to replace space that will no longer be available as of May 2025, and to ensure sufficient training capacity to staff new and expanded institutions.

# Appendix A: Geographical Perspective of Adult Correctional Institutions



# Appendix A: Geographical Perspective of Adult Correctional Institutions

## Infrastructure

Oldest: Brockville Jail, built in 1842.

Newest: South West Detention Centre, built in 2013.

## Operational Capacity

Largest: Toronto South Detention Centre, total of 1,200 beds (male-only).

Smallest: Fort Frances Jail, total of 22 beds (female and male).

## Gender-specific Institutions

Vanier Centre for Women is currently the only dedicated female institution, housing both remanded and sentenced inmates with an operational capacity of 287 beds. Of the 25 provincial institutions, 16 house female inmates.

## Megas

The four institutions on the map legend with pink circles (●) are considered “megas” – facilities with over 1,000 beds. Megas have the largest operational capacity and unique needs.

REGION	INSTITUTION	TOTAL FTEs	OPERATIONAL CAPACITY
CENTRAL	HamiltonWentworth Det Centre	361	466
	Niagara Det Centre	201	240
	Milton-Vanier Centre for Women	291	273
	Maplehurst Correctional Complex	681	944
	Ontario Correctional Complex	134	118
	<b>Central Total</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>2,041</b>
EASTERN	Brockville Jail	77	48
	Central East Correctional Centre	566	1,016
	Ottawa Carleton Det Centre	398	484
	Quinte Det Centre	198	226
	St. Lawrence Valley Corr & TC	73	100
<b>Eastern Total</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,874</b>	
NORTHERN	Algoma Treatment & Remand Ctr	196	133
	Fort Frances Jail	47	22
	Kenora Jail	130	196
	Monteith Correctional Complex	159	222
	North Bay Jail	99	104
	Sudbury Jail	144	149
	Thunder Bay Correctional Centre	209	178
	Thunder Bay Jail	136	130
	<b>Northern Total</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>1,134</b>

REGION	INSTITUTION	TOTAL FTEs	OPERATIONAL CAPACITY
TORONTO	Toronto East Det Centre	372	359
	Toronto South Det Centre	1,131	1,294
	<b>Toronto Total</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,653</b>
WESTERN	Central North Correctional Centre	492	1,060
	Elgin-Middlesex Det Centre	391	342
	Sarnia Jail	91	92
	Stratford Jail	45	50
	South West Det Centre	373	262
<b>Western Total</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>1,806</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,993</b>	<b>8,508</b>

FTEs as of January 31, 2025, and operational capacity on February 6, 2025.

# Appendix B: Correctional Institutions – Details

Facility Name	Region	City	Year Constructed	Size (Sq.Ft.)	Bed Capacity*
Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre	Central	Hamilton	1978	131,931	580
Maplehurst Correctional Centre	Central	Milton	1976	574,003	1,096
Niagara Detention Centre	Central	Thorold	1973	65,029	272
Ontario Correctional Institute	Central	Brampton	1973	131,660	130
Vanier Centre for Women**	Central	Milton	2001		329
Brockville Jail	East	Brockville	1842	12,855	54
Central East Correctional Centre	East	Lindsay	2001	501,684	1,254
Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre	East	Ottawa	1972	119,977	623
Quinte Detention Centre	East	Napanee	1970	57,978	248
St. Lawrence Valley Correctional & Treatment Centre	East	Brockville	2003	87,896	108
Algoma Treatment & Remand Centre	North	Sault. Ste. Marie	1990	78,612	141
Cecil Facer Youth Centre (CFYC)***	North	Sudbury			50
Fort Frances Jail	North	Fort Frances	1908	5,584	23
Kenora Jail & Modular Build Facility (MBF)	North	Kenora	1929	56,229	224
Monteith Correctional Complex	North	Monteith	1960	90,131	222
North Bay Jail	North	North Bay	1929	15,988	111
Sudbury Jail	North	Sudbury	1928	79,655	177
Thunder Bay Correctional Centre & Modular Build Facility (MBF)	North	Thunder Bay	1965	104,739	186
Thunder Bay Jail	North	Thunder Bay	1928	25,185	145
Toronto East Detention Centre	Toronto	Toronto	1977	121,321	437
Toronto South Detention Centre	Toronto	Toronto	2012	933,820	1,205
Central North Correctional Centre	West	Penetanguishene	2001	407,876	1,228
Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre	West	London	1977	127,177	448
Sarnia Jail	West	Sarnia	1961	28,428	96
Southwest Detention Centre	West	Maidstone	2013	220,722	316
Stratford Jail	West	Stratford	1901	10,226	54
<b>Total</b>				<b>3,988,706</b>	<b>9,707</b>

\*Bed Capacity does not match open bed counts as some beds may be closed. Open bed counts do not match operational bed count as the program maintains an occupancy ratio that allows for inmate movement due to security concerns and closure of areas for maintenance.

\*\*Vanier Centre for Women is part of the Maplehurst complex but operated separately.

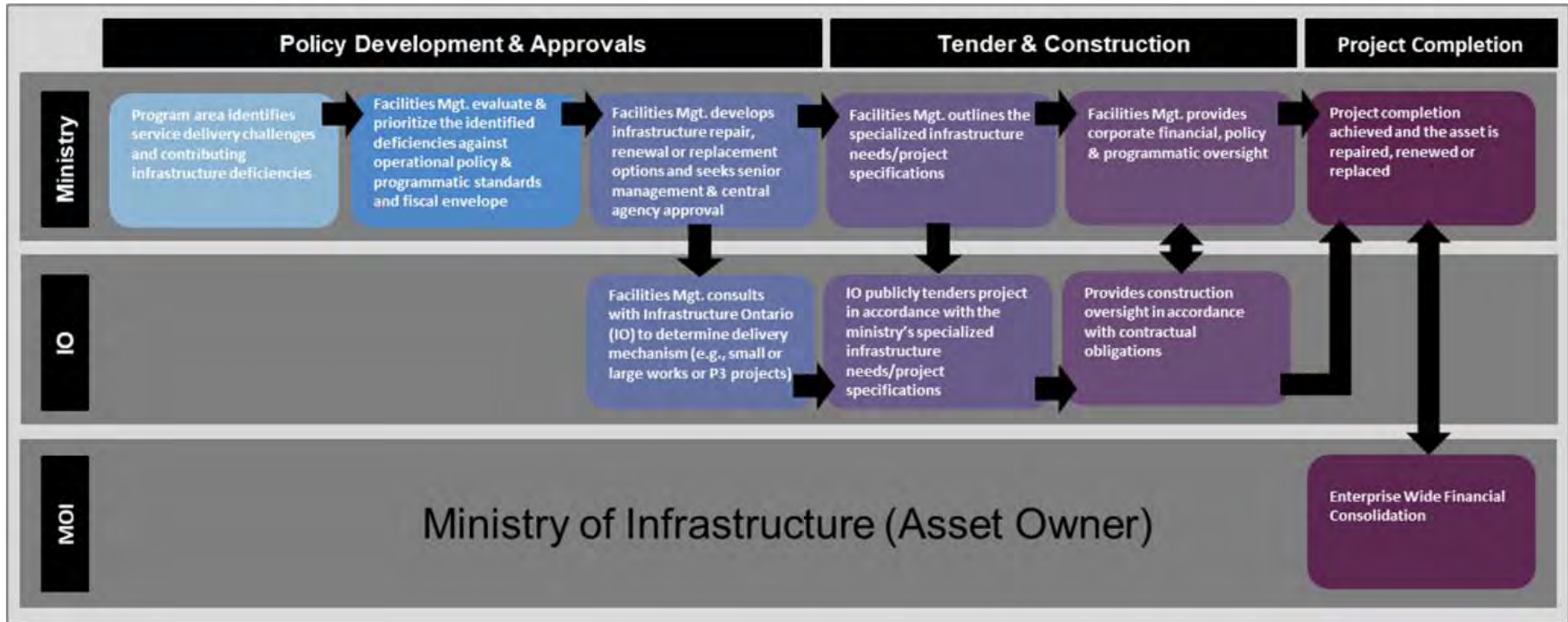
\*\*\* CFYC is currently occupied by Youth Corrections and is planned to be transferred from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services – Youth Justice to SOLGEN.

# Appendix C: Ongoing Infrastructure Projects

Project	Description	Net New Capacity	Substantial Completion	Procurement Model
Regional Intermittent Centre (RIC) - London	Repurposing of RIC	110	Winter 2025	Traditional
Toronto South Detention Centre – Toronto Intermittent Centre (TIC)	Repurposing of former TIC	320	Mid-2026	P3
Thunder Bay Correctional Complex	New build: 345 bed facility	68	Fall 2026	P3
Niagara Detention Centre (Thorold), Vanier Centre for Women (Milton), and Cecil Facer Youth Centre (Sudbury)	New modular build facilities	50 each Total 150	Fall 2027	Traditional
Quinte Detention Centre	66 bed expansion	66	Winter 2029	Traditional
Brockville Correctional Complex (BCC) / St. Lawrence Valley (SLV) Correctional and Treatment Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement of the Brockville Jail (new 250 bed facility)</li> <li>• SLV expansion (25 new beds)</li> </ul>	196 (BCC) + 25 (SVL) Total 221	Spring 2031	Traditional
Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex (Kemptonville)	New build: 235 bed facility	235	Fall 2032	P3
Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre	Downsizing of OCDC to 366 beds	-255	Spring 2033	TBD

# Appendix D: Major Project Delivery

Depending on procurement delivery model selected and other regional factors, inflation, labour demand, supply chain disruptions, and project scope changes can impact schedule and project cost.



## **Overcrowding in Correctional Facilities**

### **Issue:**

Capacity challenges/overcrowding in correctional institutions occasionally receives media attention. Lockdowns at correctional institutions are regularly subject of media scrutiny and are often linked to staffing challenges.

### **Key Messages:**

- Sentencing of offenders is managed by the courts. The courts are also responsible for determining whether someone is remanded to custody while awaiting trial and the ministry has a legal responsibility to uphold court orders.
- The ministry assesses institutional capacity daily to ensure beds are available where they are most needed in the province. When necessary, inmates may be transferred between facilities to ease capacity pressures.
- The government continues to provide Ontario's adult correctional services with the capacity, tools and resources needed to keep our communities safe and maintain the security and safety of staff and individuals in custody, while supporting police services in their efforts to dismantle organized crime, crack down on auto theft and keep repeat and violent offenders off our streets.
- Funding will also support the hiring of new staff, including social workers, mental health nurses, rehabilitation officers and recreation officers.
- Infrastructure updates include completed expansions at Thunder Bay Correctional Centre and Kenora Jail and plans underway to add up to 430 beds at Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre and Toronto South Detention Centre to address capacity pressures in the central and west regions.
- Construction is also underway for a new state-of-the-art correctional complex in Thunder Bay, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.
- We are also making a significant investment to modernize correctional facilities in the Eastern Region to address capacity pressures, create additional space for

programming, and expand supports for inmates with mental health issues. Plans are underway for:

- A new Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex (in Kemptville),
- Expansion of Quinte Detention Centre (located in Napanee)
- Construction of a new Brockville Correctional Complex
- Creation of a dedicated secure treatment unit for women at St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre

(NOTE: Targeted completion ranges between 4 to 8 years for the various projects)

# Correctional Services Modernization: Infrastructure and Technology

## Presenters:

**Maria Duran Schneider**, Associate  
Deputy Minister

**Chris Johns**, Assistant Deputy Minister,  
Modernization Division

**Catherine Emile**, Chief Information  
Officer, Justice Technology Services

# Purpose

- To provide an overview of how we are modernizing operations and service delivery through multi-year investments in infrastructure and technology.

# Context

## Current State and Key Issues

- The aging physical infrastructure in provincial correctional facilities is not designed to support modern correctional service delivery, including adequate space for rehabilitative program delivery, health care and a primarily remanded rather than sentenced population.
- Similarly, this aging infrastructure is not designed to enable automation or support mobile digital solutions that improve staff and inmate safety, as well as improved program delivery that would lead to better outcomes for people in-custody or under supervision. It may also hinder the ministry's ability to develop and roll-out programming.
- Reliable Wi-Fi access is not available in most of the Ministry of the Solicitor General's 25 correctional institutions, and the nature of the construction makes it difficult to expand the functionality (e.g., solid concrete and rebar walls). Additionally, most corrections officers do not have access to computers or mobile devices given that their role requires them to patrol areas to supervise inmates and they rarely sit at desks.
- As a result, many Correctional Services practices and procedures – and many criminal justice sector practices – remain rooted in manual, paper-based processes that prohibit real-time data sharing both within correctional services and across the broader criminal justice participants.
- This has led to duplication of manual data collection, which in turn has led to operational inefficiencies, increased data errors and a lack of systemic data to support analytics for evidence-based decision-making.

### Key Drivers

- Broader justice sector modernization

N/R;

# Adult Correctional Institutions Overview

- Correctional Services manages the operations of 25 adult correctional facilities:
  - **Six correctional centres** that house sentenced offenders, typically serving periods of incarceration from 60 days to a maximum of two years less a day.
  - **Eight jails**, which are older, generally smaller facilities originally established by local authorities.
  - **Eight detention centres**, which are modern facilities built as regional facilities serving larger areas.
  - **Three treatment centres** that provide specialized and intensive treatment for motivated offenders with clearly identified challenges relating to substance abuse, sexual misconduct, or behaviour management.
- The size and age of correctional infrastructure varies widely.
  - Oldest: Brockville Jail, 180 years old.
  - Newest: South West Detention Centre, nine years old.
  - Largest: Toronto South Detention Centre, total of 1,200 beds (male-only).
  - Smallest: Fort Frances Jail, total of 22 beds (female and male).
  - Three correctional centres and one detention centre are considered “megas” – facilities with over 1,000 beds. The megas have the largest operational capacities and unique needs.



# Infrastructure: Key Initiatives

The chart below highlights select project initiatives and time limited funding key initiatives.

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
<b>Corrections Wireless Network (WI-FI/ Long Term Evolution)</b>	Installation and maintenance of Wireless Network Services for all correctional facilities and the purchase of 150 tablets will enable automation and support mobile digital solutions to enhance service delivery (e.g., rehabilitation programming, remote court appearances, virtual visitation, etc.).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prioritization of the 25 sites is currently underway as is site assessments, network designs and procurement of equipment.</li><li>• Quinte and Niagara cellular underway as well as the Kenora and Thunder Bay Modular Build Facilities.</li><li>• Project plan in development for implementation of this initiative over the next two fiscal years (22-23 and 23-24).</li></ul>
<b>Fort Frances Expansion</b>	Includes the re-design of the former Ontario Provincial Police detachment to support the Fort Frances Jail, and the co-location of the Probation and Parole Office.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing Fort Frances jail with additional special needs beds, installation of a full body scanner.</li><li>• Construction to start August/September 2022.</li></ul>
<b>Segregation Capital Projects</b>	Renewal of existing facilities to maximize the use of existing physical capacity by increasing the amount of available yard, programming, and staff space within institutions to support segregation compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% of these projects to be assigned to Facilities and Capital Planning Branch Spring 2022.</li></ul>
<b>Closed-Circuit Television</b>	Meeting the Ombudsman recommendation to provide 100% video surveillance (closed-circuit television) coverage of inmate areas within institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 60% of correctional facilities have 100% closed-circuit television coverage.</li><li>• 100% closed-circuit television coverage at all institutions targeted for December 31, 2023.</li></ul>

# Correctional Services Issues

## Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex

### **Issue:**

Since the August 2020 announcement of the future construction of the Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex, some members of the public and other community advocates/small interest groups have raised concerns about the decision to locate this facility in Kemptonville, arguing that the province did not consult with or notify the local municipality or the community about the plans before the decision was made. Concerns also continue to be raised in local media about potential negative impacts to community safety, policing costs, local health services, property values and municipal services such as waste and water. A grassroots effort, Coalition Against the Proposed Prison, was also established and has organized protests and other campaigns to oppose the construction of the Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex in Kemptonville, calling on the government to reverse its decision. The ministry has received four FOI requests related to EOCC, from individuals and opposition MPPs, specifically related to information regarding other potential sites that the ministry considered. Beginning in late 2020, the ministry has held engagement sessions with the public and stakeholders, including the Municipality, Indigenous partners, hospital and school boards. Future engagement sessions are planned as the project progresses.

### **Key Messages:**

The Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex is being proposed to be built on the grounds of the provincially owned Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario in Kemptonville.

The site due diligence program is completed and the Environmental Assessment and Duty to Consult processes are underway as of Winter 2022.

This site is part of the province's surplus property inventory.

Since 2020, the ministry has been engaging with Indigenous partners and stakeholders, including the municipality, community, hospital board and school boards to secure their input and feedback.

The ministry has also been engaging and sharing information with the Municipality of North Grenville regarding supports for the municipal servicing requirements for the new facility.