

January 29, 2016

Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance

As the Chair of CoSA Canada, I am writing to request that you consider substantial funding for CoSA sites across Canada in the up-coming budget.

**Circles of Support and Accountability Canada (CoSA Canada)** is a national association that represents and supports the work of individual CoSA organizations across Canada that deliver our program.

CoSA is a reintegration initiative that is based on restorative justice principles with community safety in mind. CoSA providers trained volunteers to support and hold accountable sex offenders who have been detained until the end of their sentence because of their high risk to reoffend.

CoSA began in 1994 in Hamilton, Ontario and has since developed across Canada. To date, several research studies of CoSA demonstrate a 70% to 80% reduction in the rate of sexual and other reoffending among CoSA participants compared to those who have not been involved in CoSA. Based on the effectiveness of the Canadian CoSA model, several other countries, such as the U.K., U.S., South Korea and The Netherlands, have set up CoSA programs in their jurisdictions. For more information on CoSA, please visit the CoSA Canada [website](#).

CoSA sites in Canada have received funding from the Correctional Service of Canada since 1996. This revenue, while modest, has been essential for the programs to develop across the country. In addition, CoSA sites across Canada participated in a demonstration project receiving \$7.5 million over five years (2009 to 2015), from the National Crime Prevention Centre, which allowed the participating sites to significantly expand and improve program capacity. CoSA's efficacy and cost-effectiveness were demonstrated in the project's final [report](#). In spite of the project's success, in March 2015 the Correctional Service of Canada discontinued funding all but one CoSA operation, forcing the sites in Halifax, Moncton, Montreal and Kingston to close their doors. This is disastrous for everyone – potential victims, former offenders and communities across Canada.

CoSA is the only community-based organization working specifically with high risk sex offenders. We are asking you, and the new government that is clearly influenced by evidence-based practices, to reinstate funding for **Circles of Support and Accountability** in Canada.

In view of our work being primarily involved with public safety and justice matters, I have copied Minister Ralph Goodale, .

I look forward to hearing from you.

David Byrne  
Chair, CoSA Canada

Cc: Honorable Ralph Goodale