

December 3, 2015

Hon. Ralph Goodale,

Congratulations to you and your colleagues on forming government, and to you in your new role as Minister of Public Safety.

You may be familiar with the work of Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) Canada. For over twenty years CoSA sites across Canada have been making our communities safer by supporting and holding to account sex offenders released from federal institutions.

With its origins in Hamilton and Toronto, Circles of Support and Accountability is recognized internationally as a best practice in restorative justice with a very challenging offender population. Earlier this year CoSA Canada was formed to provide a national organization to represent and support the work of sixteen CoSA sites across Canada. With funding ending for nearly all sites in March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 our most pressing concern is to find substantial, core funding for CoSA work to continue in Canada..

We would like to meet with you or your officials to discuss CoSAs and how viable and sustainable federal funding for this work could be established. In the CoSA network, we have been discussing the possibilities of social finance for the past two years as a way of sustaining and developing effective Circle operations across Canada. We were invited to provide expert testimony to the House Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on our work. In November 2014, the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, later joined by the Anglican Church of Canada, funded the development of a business case for a Social Impact Bond for COSAs by Finance for Good, a Social Impact Bond intermediary. We undertook extensive work to explore a social impact bond and had meetings with the National Crime Prevention Strategy leadership prior to the election to discuss the feasibility of funding CoSA through this means. This was the only possible avenue for funding open to us under the previous government. We remain interested in this approach to funding, but open to other models as well.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your officials at the earliest opportunity. Attached is information about our network and the Board of CoSA Canada. Thank you for your consideration of our request,

Sincerely,

David Byrne

On behalf of the Board of CoSA Canada,

cc. Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada

**Attachments:**

CoSA Sites across Canada

Board Members – CoSA Canada