



Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia

2001 TO 2005

STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of the strategic plan is to identify objectives or goals the Board aims to accomplish within the next four years and the strategies to be pursued in reaching those objectives. Section 101 of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act documents six principles that guide parole boards as they make conditional release decisions and these form the framework for our strategic plan objectives. These principles may be summarized as follows:

1. The protection of society is the paramount consideration
2. Parole boards are to consider all available information from their criminal justice partners, other interested parties, the victim and the offender
3. The timely exchange of relevant information with criminal justice partners and communication of policies and programs to offenders, victims and the general public enhances effectiveness and openness
4. Parole boards should make the least restrictive determination consistent with the protection of society
5. Parole boards should adopt appropriate policies and training programs for members
6. Offenders must be provided with relevant information, reasons for decisions and access to the review of decisions to ensure a fair and understandable conditional release process

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia fully endorses these principles as the framework for the five objectives and included action statements of the strategic plan.

The Board of Parole for the Province of British Columbia is committed to protecting society by effectively assessing risk, making informed release decisions and providing for the appropriate management of offenders through the reintegration process. In accordance with legislation and the principles of restorative justice, we strive to represent and be sensitive to a concept of community that includes offenders, the public, victims and other interested and concerned individuals. It is essential that we work with our partners in the criminal justice system to ensure that we receive the information required for independent decision making.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE ONE

To foster excellence in Board practice

(Principles 1, 2 and 5)

- 1.1 Ensure efficient and effective decision making practices that focus on the protection of society and reintegration of the offender into the community.
- 1.2 Provide opportunity for community input in Board decision making practice and policy.
- 1.3 Provide effective orientation, on-going training programs and a support structure to all Board members to ensure quality decision making, documentation practice and adherence to policy and procedure.
- 1.4 Provide staff with the necessary resources and training to support the Board.
- 1.5 Foster accountability for decisions and practices.
- 1.6 Promote community representation on the Board emphasizing geographic representation, cultural diversity, gender balance and a dynamic combination of age and experience.

OBJECTIVE TWO

To increase public confidence in and understanding of the parole process

(Principles 1 and 3)

- 2.1 Expand the Board's public education strategy to promote awareness of the parole process and the British Columbia Board of Parole.
- 2.2 Participate in community forums when the interests of the Board and community converge.
- 2.3 Keep the political and executive levels of government informed to enhance their understanding and support of parole and promote the work of a community based parole board.
- 2.4 Demonstrate Board openness and accountability by inviting observers and supporting and encouraging the participation of victims in the hearing process.
- 2.5 Increase cultural sensitivity in all Board processes by allowing, whenever possible, spiritual and traditional practices of diverse groups.

OBJECTIVE THREE

To advance the role of the Parole Board as an independent partner within the criminal justice system

(Principles 3 and 5)

- 3.1 Clearly communicate Board objectives and practices.
- 3.2 Promote productive relationships with all justice partners to facilitate creative problem solving and the development of quality standards.
- 3.3 Initiate and respond to opportunities for education and information sharing.
- 3.4 Represent and promote the interest of the Board in all related legislation and policy development.

OBJECTIVE FOUR

To encourage the full participation of offenders in the Parole process

(Principles 4, 5 and 6)

- 4.1 Work with Corrections Branch to develop strategies to increase offender confidence in the parole process.
- 4.2 Provide information material for distribution to offenders, victims and the general public.
- 4.3 Demonstrate a consistent, fair and just process.
- 4.4 Write decisions that provide guidance to offenders with respect to reintegration and reduced risk.
- 4.5 Set appropriate conditions that are the least restrictive and that are consistent with risk to the community and the needs of the offender.

OBJECTIVE FIVE

To be a catalyst for innovation and change in the community and in the justice system

(Principle 3)

- 5.1 Conduct research that promotes a reasoned response to crime and community re-integration.

5.2 Challenge societies conventional beliefs and stereotypes of offenders and the criminal justice system.

5.3 Evaluate and support alternatives to incarceration.

5.4 Work with partners in pilot projects that facilitate the successful re-integration of offenders

Revised 2001

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