

Structured Intervention Units (SIUs) were launched on November 30, 2019, bringing **transformational and historic changes** to federal corrections. Administrative and disciplinary segregation were eliminated and **no longer exist** in federal correctional institutions in Canada.

## SIUs are operating at 15 sites across the country

### Atlantic Region

- Atlantic Institution
- Nova Institution for Women

### Quebec Region

- Donnacona Institution
- Joliette Institution for Women
- Port-Cartier Institution
- Regional Reception Centre (Special Handling Unit)

### Ontario Region

- Millhaven Institution
- Grand Valley Institution for Women

### Prairie Region

- Bowden Institution
- Edmonton Institution for Women
- Edmonton Institution
- Saskatchewan Penitentiary
- Stony Mountain Institution

### Pacific Region

- Kent Institution
- Fraser Valley Institution for Women



## Vision

A transformative federal correctional model that adopts a positive, intervention-based approach to address individual inmate needs for the safety and security of the institution.

## What are SIUs?

**Safety and security:** an area in an institution where an inmate can be transferred, based on legislative criteria, if they cannot be **safely managed** in a mainstream population.

**Engagement:** focuses on **addressing an inmate's needs** and risks where they continue meeting the objectives set out in their correctional plan. It uses a positive, constructive approach.

**Interventions focus:** inmates get **targeted interventions/programming** and required health services based on their unique needs and risks.

**Transition and reintegration:** the goal is to get inmates what they need to be able to **return to a mainstream population** as soon as possible.

**Continuity:** it is about **shifting mindsets and behaviours** to ensure a safe, secure and healthy correctional environment.

## What does it look like?

- An SIU cell is similar to a **regular cell** - they have windows.
- Inmates have access to a yard, a shower and to their personal property.

## A typical day in an SIU

During the course of a day, an inmate in an SIU can:

- **Interact** with correctional officers, primary workers, social program officers and correctional managers as well as other inmates.
- Work with a **parole officer** and engage with **health care staff**.
- Participate in correctional **programs/interventions**.
- Attend individual **counselling sessions** with Elders/Spiritual Advisors or a Chaplain.
- Engage in indoor/outdoor **exercise**.
- **Access** organizations, visitors, volunteers, teachers and legal counsel.

## Addressing an inmate's health needs

- The decision to place an inmate in an SIU is based on an **assessment** of the **inmate's circumstances and needs**, including any health care needs.
- Inmates in SIUs have access to **essential health services**, including mental health.
- **Health care professionals** may also recommend that the conditions of confinement be modified or that the inmate be removed from the SIU for health reasons.
- Health professionals **assess** the health of inmates:



- Within **24 hours** of being transferred to an SIU.
- Inmates in SIUs receive **daily health care visits** by a registered health professional and a **mental health assessment** is completed within **28 days**.

## Time out of cell

- Inmates have the **opportunity for a minimum of four hours each day** for time outside of their cell. This can include programs and activities and contact with Chaplains of their spiritual denomination, Elders, CSC staff and visits with loved ones.
- Inmates have the **opportunity for two hours each day of meaningful human contact**. This can include programs, services, interventions, cultural, religious and spiritual practices, community partners such as volunteers, and family contact, including through video visitation.
- Inmates are provided with **several offers** per day for time out of cell.

There are **significantly fewer** inmates in SIUs than in the former model. In 2015-16, there were 6,788 admissions to administrative segregation versus 2,267 transfers to an SIU in 2020-21.

## SIU oversight

- Two external **oversight bodies** were put in place in 2019:
  - Independent External **Decision Makers** (IEDMs); and
  - An Implementation **Advisory Panel** (IAP)
- IEDMs review inmate cases on an **ongoing basis, in real-time**, and provide recommendations related to an inmate's conditions and duration of confinement. Their **decisions are binding**.
- IAP monitors and assesses the implementation of SIUs and advises the Minister of any issues or concerns.
- The Correctional Investigator also provides oversight.

## Challenges and Opportunities

- Identifying and implementing **operational actions that help to sustain cultural change**, such as additional training, awareness and education.
- Sharing **best practices** across the country.
- Working to achieve **data stability and integrity**, and aligning new business requirements with technology systems.

## What's next

- Continue to work with our **external oversight bodies**.
- We have completed an **audit** of our SIU policy and are finalizing a **compliance review**. Work is also underway, through an internal audit process, to review SIU operations since their inception. This will serve as a preparation for our departmental audit planned for 2022-23.
- We will **build on lessons learned** and determine what improvements can be made **to provide consistency** at our sites across the country.
- Work to **transform the culture and sustain change** through self-reflection and continuous improvement.