

Ottawa, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2016



Dear Member of Parliament/Senator/Minister

The Union of Correctional Officers of Canada (UCCO-SACC-CSN) is asking for your support to enact a Blood Samples Act for Federal Correctional Officers; a law that would require inmates who engage in bodily-fluid attacks on Correctional Officers to submit to a blood test to reveal whether there is a possibility of contracting a blood-borne disease. This type of legislation to protect first responders already exists in seven out of ten provinces.

For correctional officers, this legislation is more necessary than ever. Over the past decade, inmate attacks on correctional officers with organic-liquid have increased dramatically. Given the high rates of infectious diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis C, among inmates in federal penitentiaries, these attacks are potentially life-threatening. Correctional Officers who suffer these attacks, having no way of knowing whether they have been exposed to a potentially deadly blood-borne disease, mostly choose to participate in a drug-treatment protocol (the Post-Exposure Protocol, or PEP) which leads to severe side effects. The stress of the attack, compounded by the debilitating effects of the drug cocktail, will often lead to serious problems that will affect the victims and their families.

It is mainly the arrival of Justin Trudeau at the head of the country that brings UCCO-SACC-CSN to resume today its steps for the adoption of a Blood Samples Act. In 2015, the current Prime Minister, who was then Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada and MP, made a commitment to the union to adopt legislation that would grant the right to correctional officers to request a blood sample from an inmate, when attacked with or exposed to bodily fluids (see annex).

Correctional Officers are asking that the Prime Minister keep his word and have his government introduce this act. **We are counting on you and your voice in support of this important piece of legislation for Canada's front line Correctional Officers.**

Best regards,



Jason Godin  
National President, UCCO-SACC-CSN