



AUG 14 2018

AUG 02 2018

Kelly Ziegner and David Billson  
409 King Street  
London, Ontario N6B 1S5

Dear Kelly Ziegner and David Billson:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 11, 2018, regarding the pardons system, sent on behalf of the United Way and London for All. I appreciate your interest in this important matter.

I am working in collaboration with my colleague the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, to review the changes made to our criminal justice system and sentencing reforms over the past decade. Our mandate is to assess the reforms while ensuring that we are increasing the safety of our communities, getting value for money, addressing gaps and ensuring that current provisions are aligned with the objectives of the criminal justice system. This review includes changes to pardons, which have been referred to as "record suspensions" since reforms in 2012.

My Department is leading the review of the pardons system and the *Criminal Records Act*, including issues such as changes to the eligibility waiting period and the fees associated with pardon applications. In spring 2016, a public consultation on the user fees associated with pardon applications was undertaken, as was a broader public online consultation on record suspensions in fall 2016. The results of these consultations will be used to guide reforms and are available online at:

*Public Consultation on the Records Suspension Program*

**<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/rcrds-sspnsn-prgrm/index-en.aspx>**;

*What we Heard - Public Consultations on the Record Suspension Program*

**<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsracs/pblctns/rcrds-sspnsn-prgrm/wht-hrd-en.aspx>**;

*Parole Board of Canada User Fees Consultation - What We Heard Summary*

**<https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/programs/user-fee-consultation/record-suspension-user-fee-consultation-report.html>**;

*Parole Board of Canada User Fees – Online Consultation Detailed Report*  
**<https://www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/programs/user-fee-consultation/record-suspension-user-fee-consultation-full-report.html>**

Our Government understands that pardons are the final step in the reintegration process. Inaccessible pardons can be a significant barrier to good employment as many positions require criminal record checks.

We want to ensure that the program, including the waiting period and fee, is fair, proportionate, and has as a fundamental goal to allow people living crime-free to become fully contributing members of society.

Protecting Canadians is our number one concern, and we will do this by implementing evidence-based criminal justice policies that are proven to support rehabilitation, prevent crime and victimization, and keep our communities and citizens safe.

I trust that this information will be useful. Thank you for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.