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News Release

For Immediate Release

Corrections Act receives Royal Assent

Iqaluit, Nunavut (June 14, 2019) – Nunavut's new *Corrections Act* has received Royal Assent. It ensures that the territory's corrections system incorporates culturally-relevant programming and rehabilitation measures, founded in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

"This made-in Nunavut *Corrections Act* will make Nunavut's correctional system a leader in the protection of inmate rights and is a reflection of the importance of Inuit Societal Values, culture and language. This legislation takes into consideration our unique history and incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to address modern developments in the field of corrections," said Acting Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Nunavut David Akeeagok.

Key changes to the new *Act* include:

- Increased accountability and transparency through the creation of the independent investigations officer and deputy investigations officer positions responsible for review and oversight of corrections decision making.
- Provisions regarding the use of force, search and seizure, and limits on disciplinary segregation.
- Provisions respecting the mental health needs of inmates.
- Implementation of international and Canadian correctional best practices and standards in rehabilitation and reintegration.
- The creation of a formal grievance procedure, allowing for reviews and oversight on the use of segregation, and the tabling of an annual report.
- Support the provision of culturally-appropriate corrections programming through the creation of an Inuit Societal Values Committee

The *Corrections Act* will be brought into force once the Investigations Officer position is filled and the development of operational rules and procedures facilitating the enforcement of the *Act* is complete.

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