

What is a National Joint Board of Investigation?

A National Joint Board of Investigation (BOI) is a review conducted by the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) when an offender on conditional release is charged with a serious violent offence in the community.

How often are BOIs conducted?

BOIs are only conducted when an offender on conditional release is charged with a serious violent offence in the community, which is rare.

Over the last 5 fiscal years, only **0.2%** of federal *Day Parole* supervision periods, and **0.6%** of federal **Full Parole** supervision periods, ended with a revocation for new violent offending.

Over the last 5 fiscal years, only **1.4%** of **Statutory Release** supervision periods ended with a revocation for new violent offending.

What is the purpose of an investigation?

A BOI is an administrative investigation. It is not a criminal investigation into the incident.

The purpose of a National Joint BOI is to report on matters relating to the operations of PBC and CSC. A National Joint BOI allows for a thorough review of the actions taken by PBC and CSC including whether laws, policies and

protocols were followed and to identify any recommendations and corrective measures. National Joint BOI reports support PBC and CSC's probity, transparency, accountability and professionalism.

National Joint BOIs enable PBC and CSC to learn from incidents and help identify elements in areas such as policy, procedures, and training, in an effort to reduce the likelihood of such incidents in the future. The focus of the National Joint BOI is on the facts leading up to the incident and analyzing issues related to the release of the offender.

Under what Legislative Authorities do Boards of Investigation fall?

A) [Corrections and Conditional Release Act](#) (CCRA):

The Commissioner, CSC and the Chairperson, PBC are authorized to convene investigations under the following sections of the CCRA:

- [Section 20 of the CCRA](#): the Commissioner of CSC may appoint a person or persons to investigate and report on any matter relating to the operations of the Service.
- [Section 152\(4\) of the CCRA](#): the Chairperson of the PBC may appoint a person or persons to investigate and report on any matter relating to the operations of PBC.

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B) *Inquiries Act*:

As indicated in the CCRA, persons appointed by the Chairperson to conduct investigations have all the powers of a Commissioner under Part II of the *Inquiries Act*.

[Sections 7 to 13 of the *Inquiries Act*](#) apply in respect of such investigations. The *Inquiries Act* details the extensive powers given to the BOI such as the right to access any public office, the power to examine any document/paper, the power to summon, or if required, to subpoena witnesses and require them to give evidence under oath and provides the provision that persons will be given the opportunity to be heard in regards to any charge of misconduct alleged against them.

Who conducts the investigation?

National Joint BOIs consist of a minimum of three members: a community representative who is the Chairperson of the National Joint BOI, a PBC representative and a CSC representative. The community representative is appointed as the BOI's Chairperson to ensure transparency and independence of the process. Additional members representing the community and/or members who possess an expertise in an area related to the investigation (i.e., correctional law, policy or operations) may be identified to take part in the National Joint BOI at the request of CSC and the PBC.

How long does the investigation take?

The length of time to complete an investigation varies according to the complexities of the case and whether there is an ongoing police investigation or criminal proceeding.

Are victims contacted during the investigation?

BOIs do not normally contact the victim(s) or victim's family during investigations. Victims are informed when a BOI has been convened. Exceptions may be made when the victims have information as a result of their relationship to the offender that cannot be obtained in any other way. Arrangements for such contact are made through the police investigating the case. These victims can forward written statements to the BOI.

Are victims notified when the report will be released?

PBC and/or CSC officials may advise the victim or the victim's family before the report is released to the public. At the request of a victim or victim's family, PBC and/or CSC may discuss the report with them and also assign a contact to provide further information.

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Can the investigation report be released to the public?

The report may be released to the public when a written request is made to PBC and CSC, as required under the [Access to Information Act](#). PBC and CSC attempt to release as much information as possible. However, some information may be removed to comply with the [Privacy Act](#), for example, to protect the identity of the victim(s), families of the victim(s) and the offender.

How is the investigation report used after it has been completed?

When completed, the report is submitted to the Chairperson of the PBC and to the Commissioner of CSC. Action plans are developed in response to recommendations contained in the report.

The results of investigations are used in discussions with Parole Board of Canada (PBC) members and staff to ensure that lessons learned from investigations are incorporated into practice.

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