

# CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.



## Section 81 Agreements



Correctional Service  
Canada

Service correctionnel  
Canada

Canada

## What is a healing lodge?

Healing lodges are environments designed specifically for Indigenous offenders to ensure their unique needs are addressed. This is done through cultural teachings and ceremonies, contact with Elders and spiritual advisors, and interaction with nature. Healing lodges offer culturally appropriate services and programs to offenders in a way that incorporates Indigenous values, traditions and beliefs. Emphasis is placed on spiritual leadership and the value of life experiences of staff, contractors and community members, who act as pro-social role models. At healing lodges, programs are delivered in a context of community interaction, and focus on preparing an offender for their eventual release. Healing lodges operate in two ways and are either managed solely by CSC or by a partner organization/agency/community.

### What is the difference between a CSC healing lodge and Section 81 healing lodge?

A Correctional Service Canada (CSC) healing lodge is a CSC facility in an Indigenous community that offers culturally appropriate services and programs to offenders. These facilities are funded and managed by CSC.

### What is a Section 81 healing lodge?

A Section 81 healing lodge is a community-based centre that is funded by CSC, but is managed by a community partner organization through an agreement called a Section 81 Agreement.

A Section 81 healing lodge provides services to Indigenous offenders, including:

- Accepting offenders to an Indigenous facility where interventions are grounded in Indigenous culture(s), as part of a Section 81 Agreement.
- Operating a facility in an urban or rural community that is designed for Indigenous offenders based on the traditional Indigenous culture(s) where the facility is located.
- Providing holistic cultural interventions, determined by the host community and Elders' teachings, for example, sweats, seasonal feasts, fire keeping, learning about sacred grounds and protocols, working with Elder(s), connecting family lineage, carving, and learning about one's Indigenous history.
- Supporting offenders on release.

**Currently, there are nine healing lodges across Canada that funded and/or operated by CSC.**

### CSC-operated healing lodges:

- Kwikwèxwelhp Healing Village, Harrison Mill, British Columbia
- Pê Sâkâstêw Centre, Maskwacis, Alberta
- Willow Cree Healing Centre, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan

- Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

### **Section 81 healing lodges operated by the community:**

- Stan Daniels Healing Centre (operated by the Native Counselling Service of Alberta), Edmonton, Alberta
- O-chi-chak-ko-sipi First Nation Healing Lodge (operated by the Ochichakkosipi First Nation), Crane River, Manitoba
- Waseskun Healing Centre, St-Alphonse-Rodriguez, Quebec
- Buffalo Sage for Women (operated by the Native Counselling Services of Alberta), Edmonton, Alberta
- Prince Albert Grand Council Spiritual Healing Lodge, Wahpeton First Nation, Saskatchewan

### **CSC is committed to healing lodges and developing nation-to-nation partnerships.**

CSC is committed to fostering renewed, nation-to-nation partnerships with Indigenous Peoples as key and equal partners in addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in the criminal justice system.

CSC is committed to fostering nation-to-nation partnerships with Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast to coast to address the disproportionate incarceration of Indigenous offenders. Such nation-to-nation partnerships will require the signing of additional Section 81 Agreements. While Section 81 Agreements do not exist in all geographic areas, CSC is open to exploring future agreements, particularly in under-served geographies.

## **My community or organization is interested in entering into a Section 81 Agreement. Where do we begin?**

A community can start the application process to provide correctional services to Indigenous offenders, by writing an Expression of Interest. CSC will review the Expression of Interest and communicate directly with the community applicant.

The Expression of Interest should contain essential information that outlines the capacity of your community to enter into a Section 81 Agreement. The following list outlines the information that must be included in the Expression of Interest:

- the name of the organization or community applying (this should include the corporate and/or legal structure of the organization or community)
- a description of the correctional services that are proposed for the care and custody of Indigenous offenders
- who can apply to receive the services outlined above (e.g. men or women offenders, etc.)
- a description of the Indigenous community's previous experience in the criminal justice field
- how many offenders that the organization/community is proposing to accommodate
- an outline of the implementation and operation funding requirements/needs

- the proposed physical infrastructure and building plans that detail the physical layout of the facility, including interior and exterior details, and location, if a facility is proposed
- the reason why the organization/community is applying for a Section 81 healing lodge
- a brief description of the project reasoning/rationale

The Expression of Interest must also answer the following questions:

- Does the Indigenous community have financial requirements to further develop their statement of interest and formal proposal?
- Are there finances available from the organization/community applicant?
- Is funding allocated to this request via the applying organization/community?
- What is the capacity to deliver and provide access to Indigenous and community programs and services?
- Are there partnerships that the Indigenous community has or could establish to meet the offenders' needs?
- What support exists from the surrounding communities, including letters of recommendation, testimonials and other relevant documentation?
- What are the time and legal constraints related to the Indigenous community's participation, or any of its partners' participation, in the proposed agreement?
- What is the legal ownership of property and land where the facility will be located, if a facility is proposed?

### Once an Expression of Interest is submitted, then what?

Once you have submitted an Expression of Interest, CSC will reach out to you to discuss the next steps and the application process.

## For more information

[CD 541-2 Negotiation, Implementation and Management of CCRA Section 81 Agreements](#) contains detailed information about opening a section 81 healing lodge.