



B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union
A component of NUPGE (CLC)

April 29, 2016

VIA E-MAIL: diana.miles@worksafebc.com

Diana Miles
CEO & President
WorkSafe BC
6951 Westminster Hwy
Richmond, BC V7C 1C6

Dear Ms Miles,

I am writing to you concerning the alarming increase in the levels of violence inside our provincial prisons.

As you may be aware, according to BC Corrections inmate assaults on Correctional Officers increased 39 per cent between 2014 and 2015. Early statistics for 2016 suggest levels of violence are increasing and the number of assaults will be even higher this year.

Between October 2012 and December 2013 a team of senior WorkSafeBC inspectors carried out comprehensive inspections of all nine provincial prisons. These valuable inspections led to 58 orders being issued for serious health and safety violations. We believed these inspections, and the orders that were issued, would make our prisons safe for the men and women who work there. However, the assaults have increased and work remains to be done.

A spate of violent attacks just last week is an indication of the urgency of this matter. I am requesting a meeting between senior BCGEU representatives and WorkSafeBC staff to develop a plan to address this violence.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience so the BCGEU and WorkSafeBC can work together to make our provincial prisons safe for the men and women who work in them.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Smith
President

SS/ES/zl MoveUP
Letter to Diana Miles April 29, 2016

