

<b>Learning from Nelson Mandela</b>	<b>Recommendation Five</b>	<b>Reported Status: (not reported)</b>
<b>Report Sent: February 21, 2019</b>	<b>Public Body: Manitoba Justice</b>	
<p><b>Recommendation Five:</b>          The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Justice respond to the overrepresentation of youth with mental illnesses, cognitive vulnerabilities, and childhood trauma by developing an action plan with Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and Manitoba Families for the implementation of evidence informed and culturally-safe therapeutic behavioural management alternatives to solitary confinement and pepper spray, with the goals of enhancing the rehabilitation and successful reintegration of youth in Manitoba communities, reducing recidivism, and improving the public safety of all Manitobans.</p>		

**Response from the Manitoba Government on June 27, 2019:**

Summary of activities completed since report was released

Manitoba Justice provides extensive training to staff working in youth custody facilities. In addition to the support provided by juvenile counselors, youth placed in youth custody facilities also have access to a significant amount of other resources such as chaplains, Indigenous spiritual caregivers, nurses, correctional psychiatric nurses, psychologists and psychiatrists to help meet their mental health needs.

As noted in the response to Recommendation #6 of In Need of Protection: Angel’s Story, the government is undertaking a review of the current youth justice system in Manitoba and its connections to the child welfare system, with the aim of ending cycles of crime for at-risk youth. Significant progress has been made in this work and the review team has completed an analysis on leading practices throughout the country. More information about this work is available in the section noted above.

**Analysis of Manitoba Government’s Response by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:**

**Activities Completed:**

- The MACY-RAP response describes that Manitoba Justice already provides “extensive training” to staff working in youth custody facilities.
  
- Youth in custody have access to a “significant amount of other resources” to help meet their mental health needs – including chaplains, Indigenous spiritual caregivers, nurses, correctional psychiatric nurses, psychologists, and psychiatrists.
  
- The Manitoba government is undertaking a review of the youth justice system and its connections to the child welfare system, on which “significant progress has been made” including an analysis of leading practices.

**Level of Compliance**

This response does not provide enough information to determine when or how the intent of this recommendation will be met.

**Analysis of Response**

- What is the training that is provided to staff? The Manitoba Advocate requests supporting documentation, such as a list of the curriculum modules within each training, in order to assess whether current training meets the intent of this recommendation (i.e. whether the training is sufficient, relevant, and helpful for this particular population).
  
- What are these ‘other resources’ that youth in custody have access to which help meet their mental health needs? What specific kinds of supports do these listed occupations/positions provide?
  
- The Manitoba Advocate requests the Terms of Reference of the review, as well as a list of specific outcomes of the “significant progress [that] has been made”.
  
- What are the leading practices that have emerged from the youth justice system review, and do they meet the goals of rehabilitation and reintegration, reducing recidivism, and improving public safety?
  
- What is the timeline for the review of the youth justice system and its connections to the child welfare system?
  
- To be addressed in the short term\*:
  - Status of implementation
  - Information indicating a timeline for implementation

\*On September 30, 2019, the Manitoba Advocate sent a letter to the members of the government’s MACY-RAP committee and working group requesting additional information regarding the government’s progress on recommendations made by the Advocate. The Advocate communicated to the government representatives short-term questions for information that could be provided quickly. Additionally, the Advocate sent long-term questions for the government to address in future progress reports. The questions are designed to seek clarification on activities, seek evidence or documentation to support the activities, or to determine how the government’s responses are meeting the intent of the recommendations made by the



Advocate. All of this information will be used by the Advocate to determine the levels of compliance with implementation, in accordance with s.11(1)(d), s.30(2)(d), and s.30(4), of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*.