



**Briefing Note to the
Commissioner, Correctional Service
of Canada**

**Note d'information au
Commissaire, Service correctionnel
du Canada**

Subject

Objet

Virtual Tour of Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) Institutions

Issue:

Requesting your approval to develop a virtual tour of a correctional facility.

Background:

Following the public's interest in attending the Kingston Penitentiary tours, it is clear that Canadian correctional facilities have been a long standing item of interest for the public. In addition, many victims groups have expressed interest in being able to see inside an institution for safety and security reasons. A virtual tour would allow Canadians to experience firsthand a correctional environment without having to physically visit an institution. A virtual tour consists of a series of 360-degree panoramas. These are simulated to display interactively on a screen, so the viewer feels they are in the photograph and can navigate around it, experiencing the locations as if they are actually there.

Objectives:

- To develop a self guided tour through maximum, medium, and minimum correctional facilities. (potentially modeled after a clustered site)
- To provide victims of crime an opportunity to experience and learn about their offender's surroundings while incarcerated.
- To allow Canadians to experience and virtually visit a correctional facility.

Analysis:

- Other federal agencies and departments have developed similar virtual tours. Citizenship and Immigration developed the Canadian Black History Virtual Museum and Treasure Hunt. This environment allows the audience to explore different rooms in the museum and learn many interesting facts about black history in Canada. This project replaced the costly plan of building and maintaining an actual physical museum. You can take the tour at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/games/museum/flash/index.asp>.
- Through the Victims' Bill of Rights the Government of Canada has made meeting the needs of victims of crime a central component of its criminal justice reform agenda. It has committed to finding new and innovative solutions that meet those needs. One of those innovative solutions would be to allow victims to understand and be informed about how correctional facilities function.
- As per the recommendations of Blueprint 2020, the Government of Canada should find innovative and value-for-money strategies to better communicate and provide services to Canadians.

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Protégé

Implications:

- This project would span across two fiscal years and would cost approximately \$65,000.
- If this technology is not accepted as part of the new Canada.ca website, it can be hosted on Canada's Penitentiary Museum web server.
- The majority of the tour will be realistic in nature, however, there may be fictional parts to ensure the safety and security of institutions will not be compromised.

Recommendation:

To approve the creation of CSC's first virtual tour of a correctional facility.

Assistant Commissioner
Communications and Engagement
December 20, 2013

Commissioner Response:

I approve

I do not approve



Don Head, Commissioner

1. NOT TO EXCEED ESTIMATE
2. MUST BE REVIEWED ON A QUARTERLY BASIS
3. CONTENT TO BE APPROVED BY EXCOM

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c.c. Communications and Engagement/NHQ
CSC/CC 5008 (11-04-07)


Protégé
24 Dec 13