

## Right or privilege?

An offender's conditional release does not change the sentence passed by the court, it only determines the terms and conditions of the sentence. An offender who is granted conditional release must comply with the conditions imposed by the Commission.

All these forms of conditional release are a privilege, not a right. In fact, if an offender fails to comply with the imposed obligations, he or she will see their conditional release suspended or even revoked, and as a result will be sent back to prison.

## Victims have a voice

Under the Act and as part of the assessment of the files of the offenders it meets, the Commission is obliged to consider the **written representations submitted by the victims**. Victims also have the right to submit **a request for information** concerning an offender. For additional information on the rights of victims, please refer to the web site of the Commission.

COMMISSION  
QUÉBÉCOISE  
DES LIBÉRATIONS  
CONDITIONNELLES

protection  
of society  
reintegration  
into the  
community

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QUÉBÉCOISE  
DES LIBÉRATIONS  
CONDITIONNELLES

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Commission  
des libérations  
conditionnelles

Québec 

LES LOGOS SUIVANTS SERONT  
PLACÉS PAR L'IMPRIMEUR



Québec 

## The Commission: a decision-making authority

The Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles (Québec Parole Board) determines, in all independence and fairness, the conditional release of inmates held in a provincial detention facility. In so doing the Commission contributes to the protection of society while promoting the gradual and safe reintegration of offenders into the community.

The Commission assesses an offender's record by considering all the information available on this person. The commissioners meet with the offender and give a decision on the offender's eligibility by analyzing the following elements:

- the risk the offender represents from the viewpoint of the protection of society;
- the offender's reintegration capability;
- the compliance with court decisions;
- the protection of the victim and her written representations submitted to the Commission;
- equal rights and procedural fairness;
- the coherence with the various measures put forward by the criminal justice system stakeholders;
- transparency and fairness.

**The offender is interviewed by two commissioners who hand down a written decision stating the reasons for their ruling.**

## Measures under the Act

The Act respecting the Québec correctional system provides that the administration of sentences ranging from **six months to two years less a day** come under the authority of the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles, which decides on conditional release measures with respect to the following three programs:

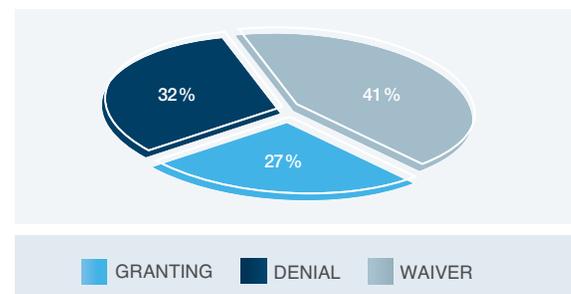
- **temporary absence in preparation for conditional release** on application and after serving one-sixth of the sentence;
- **conditional release** after serving one-third of the sentence;
- **temporary absence for family visits** on application and where provided for in the Act.

The Services correctionnels du Québec (Québec Correctional Services) administer the sentences of offenders held for periods of **less than six months**.

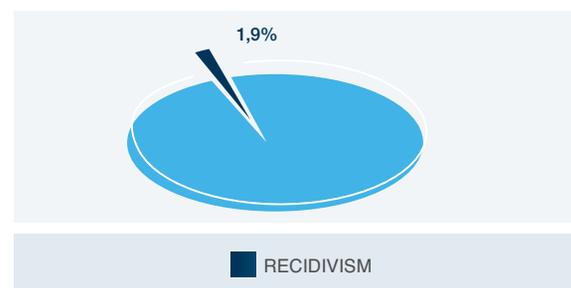
It should be mentioned that offenders serving sentences of **two years or more** are held in a federal penitentiary and come under federal authority, namely the Parole Board of Canada.

## Beyond perceptions

Less than one-third of offenders eligible for conditional release have been granted such a measure. The others were either denied conditional release or simply waived their right.\*



The very low recidivism rate during supervised periods of conditional release speaks of the importance given to the protection of society within the context of conditional release programs.\*



\* The numbers shown are based on the activities conducted since April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 following the coming into force of the Act respecting the Québec correctional system.