

**PAROLE BOARD
OF CANADA
DECISION**

RE: DARREN SCOTT RAY

January 7, 2026

W A R N I N G

The following document
contains graphic descriptions of crime
of a violent and sexual nature



PBC - ONTARIO
100-516 O'CONNOR DR
KINGSTON ON K7P 1N3

March 12, 2026

CHRIS LEAHY



WHITBY, ON



Dear CHRIS LEAHY:

In response to your request for information from the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) Registry of Decisions, please find attached a copy of the decision(s) rendered on January 05, 2026, concerning DARREN RAY.

In accordance with section 144(2) of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA), some information has been withheld because it could reasonably be expected to:

- jeopardize the safety of any person,
- reveal a source of information obtained in confidence,
- adversely affect the reintegration of the offender into society.

For additional information on PBC decisions, please visit the **Types of Release** fact sheet on the PBC web site at:

www.canada.ca/en/parole-board/services/parole/types-of-conditional-release.html.

Offenders may request access to their files under the Privacy Act. In such cases, the offender would receive information that a request(s) had/have been made for copies of decisions in their case; however, the name, address and any other information that would identify the person(s) making the request(s) would be removed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

K. Heesackers
Regional Communications Officer
Parole Board of Canada
Gen Email address: Info-ont@pbc-clcc.gc.ca





PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA DECISION

OFFENDER INFORMATION :

Name : **RAY, DARREN SCOTT**

FPS :

Institution :

FILE NO :

TYPE OF REVIEW :

- U.T.A. PRE RELEASE - ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS (PANEL-VIDEO CONFERENCE)

PANEL INFORMATION :

OBSERVER (S) PRESENT (except during deliberations) : **NO**
 EXCLUDED FROM PART OF HEARING : **NOT APPLICABLE**
 REASON : **NOT APPLICABLE**

ASSISTANT PRESENT : **YES**
 ELDER /ADVISOR : **YES**

FINAL DECISIONS :

U.T.A. PRE RELEASE AUTHORIZED 2026-01-05

ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS

Three 72 hour (including travel time) UTAs, to a community based residential facility. UTAs to be completed within 12 months.

LEAVE PRIVILEGES : NOT APPLICABLE

SPECIAL CONDITIONS :

- U.T.A. PRE RELEASE - ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS



Condition	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CONTACT WITH VICTIM(S) No direct or indirect contact with any member of the victim's family. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TO CONSUME ALCOHOL Not to consume, purchase or possess alcohol. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CONTACT WITH CHILDREN Not to be in the presence of any male or female children under the age of 18 unless you are accompanied by a responsible adult who knows your criminal history, and has previously been approved in writing by your parole supervisor. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CONTACT WITH CERTAIN PERSON Do not associate or communicate with any person you know or have reason to believe is involved in criminal activity. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REPORT RELATIONSHIPS Immediately report all sexual and non-sexual relationships and friendships with males and females and any changes to the status of the relationships/friendships to your parole supervisor. This includes attempts to initiate the above. Immediately disclose all relationships and friendships with males and females who have parental responsibilities for children under the age of 18 years. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT TO CONSUME DRUGS Not to consume, purchase or possess drugs other than prescribed medication taken as prescribed and over the counter drugs taken as recommended by the manufacturer. • DURATION OF THE CONDITION The condition will remain in effect for the duration of release. 	IMPOSED

PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED SPECIAL CONDITION(S) STILL IN EFFECT : NOT APPLICABLE

NEW INFORMATION SHARED WITH THE OFFENDER : NOT APPLICABLE

REASONS FOR DECISION(S) :

Type of Decisions and Legal Criteria

The Parole Board of Canada (the Board) reviewed your case by way of a hearing to make a decision about your unescorted temporary absences (UTAs) for administrative reasons.

To make its decision, the Board must determine whether you will not, by reoffending, present an undue risk to society during your absences; whether it is desirable for you to be absent from the penitentiary; whether your behaviour while under sentence precludes authorizing the absences; and whether a structured plan for the absences has been prepared.

Decision

The Board authorizes three 72-hour unescorted temporary absences for administrative reasons, to be taken within a period of 12 months. The Board describes its reasons below.



Brief Overview of Current Sentence

At 65 years of age, you are an Indigenous, first-time federal offender serving a life sentence for First Degree Murder.

In March 1986, you sexually assaulted and strangled the young male victim who was 14 years old. You knew the victim as you lived in the same neighbourhood. The victim had run away from home, and you invited him to your place. You and the victim consumed alcohol and drugs, and you restrained him. You violently sexually assaulted him and strangled him to death. The victim's body was later found wrapped in a blanket in the garbage room of your apartment building.

The sentencing Judge set parole eligibility at 25 years, and did not list aggravating or mitigating factors.

Social History and Background Information

You identify as Indigenous, with your heritage derived from your mother's side of the family. You are unaware if your grandparents attended residential schools as they did not speak about their childhood. You spent a lot of time with your grandmother who passed along Indigenous teachings to you. Your father was not Indigenous, and you advised he belonged to a wealthy family with significant alcoholism and multiple deaths by suicide.

You described your childhood as dysfunctional as your father was an alcoholic and was physically abusive towards you, your siblings and your mother. Your mother also drank alcohol, but you stated she was not an alcoholic. You were sexually abused by relatives and by a stranger between the ages of 5 and 19. At age 14, you were placed in a group home as your parents could not handle you and did not understand your mental health issues. You advised the Children's Aid Society (CAS) was not involved with your family, but surmised that if they had, you believe your father may have gone to jail.

You had difficulty in school and attended special education classes. You reported you were disruptive, got into fights, lied to your parents and teachers, and ran away from home. You left school in grade 11 but completed your secondary school diploma while incarcerated, in 2016.

You began using drugs and alcohol at age 13 and used regularly. You acknowledge that drugs and alcohol have been highly problematic for you, and that you were under the influence when you committed the index offence.

Reviewing your background, the Board notes some themes that are prevalent in the lives of many Indigenous offenders, including a dysfunctional family, exposure to substance abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse, mental health issues, living in a group home, limited educational pursuits, a limited knowledge about your history, the loss of culture and intergenerational trauma. These experiences you went through may have affected you on different levels, resulting in some maladaptive coping. The Board has a constitutional responsibility to consider your Indigenous social history in its decision, and it is mindful of how these background factors may explain your circumstances.

Previous Board Decisions

The Board first authorized an escorted temporary absence (ETA) for compassionate reasons in March 2015, and again in November 2015 to allow you to visit your aging parents before they passed away; both were completed without issue. In November 2017, the Board approved another ETA for personal development for rehabilitative purposes, to participate in a pipe ceremony [REDACTED]. You applied for a second Personal Development ETA to attend [REDACTED] to participate in a pipe ceremony; however, that



application was not approved.

On December 5, 2022, the Board denied full parole after considering all your circumstances, concluding that you had no release plan, and your risk would not be manageable.

Temporary Absence Request

You are requesting three 72-hour UTAs for administrative reasons to attend a community-based residential facility (CBRF) to familiarize yourself with the facility, the staff and the community.

Of note, your assistant put in a request on your behalf for two 60-day UTAs to be authorized for personal development for rehabilitation purposes, to allow you to attend a CBRF, and to visit your older brother. Your case management team (CMT) was not supportive of this, and you withdrew it. You however indicated in your inmate request dated November 10, 2025, that despite having signed a withdrawal for the 60-day UTAs, you were in a lot of pain at the time you signed the withdrawal and wanted them restored.

The Board notes that your review was scheduled the same month it received the two 60-day UTAs request, and the legislation indicates the Board is not obligated to conduct more than one review for UTAs within six months. Given that this hearing was scheduled to consider the same type of review, namely UTAs, the Board will not reverse the withdrawal at this point for a different purpose and duration.

The Board therefore indicated to you at the beginning of the hearing that the 60-day UTAs will not be part of its consideration, and that you could proceed with the current review in front of the Board and consider applying at a later time for the longer duration UTAs. You agreed to proceed with the current review.

Correctional Service of Canada's (CSC) Recommendation

CSC recommends the Board authorize the three proposed 72-hour UTAs as your risk is assessed as manageable in the context of the UTAs, there is a structured plan, you have demonstrated positive institutional behaviour which does not preclude your absences, and the UTAs are the next step in your gradual and structured reintegration.

CSC recommends the following special conditions: no contact with victim(s), not to consume alcohol, not to consume drugs, no contact with certain person, report relationships, and no contact with children.

Analysis and Decision

In making its decision, the Board considered file information as well as your application for the temporary absences dated July 28, 2025. Also considered were submissions from your assistant received on July 9, 2025, requesting that two 60-day UTAs be authorized for personal development, to allow you to attend a CBRF, and to visit your older brother; there was a letter of support from your brother, as well as photographs of his residence. The Board also received a letter from your assistant dated September 19, 2025, clarifying that you did not intend to withdraw your application for the three 72-hour UTAs, and asking for them to be reinstated. Further, an inmate request addressing the same matter was received on October 14, 2025. On December 30, 2025, another inmate request was received indicating your withdrawal of the 60-day UTAs occurred at a time when you were not well and asking for them to be restored. On December 10, 2025, the Board received a book of exhibits from your assistant comprised of certificates of programs you have completed, transcripts, his letter to your parole officer, medical information, and submissions regarding your incarceration and the legal authorities. On December 30, 2025, the Board received from your assistant, two Court decisions for the panel's consideration. The Board also took into consideration your statements at the hearing, as well as the presentations of



your parole officer and assistant.

1. RISK NOT UNDUE

Aggravating Factors (Factors that Increase Risk)

Nature and Gravity of Index Offences

The foremost aggravating factor in your case would be the nature and severity of your index offence. It involved the violent sexual assault and murder of the male victim. He was particularly vulnerable as he was young and had run away from home. You endangered him with risky behaviours that included restraining him, sexually assaulting him, strangling and cutting off his air supply, and disposing of his body in a very disturbing way.

At the hearing, you explained to the Board that you were going through a rough phase at the time of the index offence. You had turned to abusing alcohol and drugs to cope with the various stressors in your life, including infidelity by your ex-partner, allegations of sexual abuse, the abuse of your daughter, and your criminal matters. You indicated you tried to access psychiatric help but were refused at the time.

You further disclosed that you are a homosexual, noting that you used to meet the young male victim at gay bars. You maintained you did not know he was underage, and that "he looked 18"; you also stated you did not know that he was a runaway when you invited him to your place. You stated you both used substances and then tried to play out sexual activities you read about in a magazine. You indicated the sexual encounter with the victim was consensual at the time, but that things went "horribly wrong" when he passed out and did not respond to CPR. You stated you did not intend to murder the victim. Once you realized he was dead, you panicked, were not thinking straight, and disposed of his body in the garbage area. You admitted you initially denied the murder as you were embarrassed about what you had done.

Your decision to pursue a risky lifestyle that valued substance abuse above a sober and disciplined existence, is very problematic. This progressed to another level with your violent sexual assault and murder of the victim. It is clear to the Board that your offending was opportunistic, predatory and violative, with no empathy or regard for the victim's well-being, and was characterized by a breach of trust as you had invited him to your home. You would have caused great pain to the victim's family and loved ones. Although your previous criminal record certainly showed a life that was getting off track, the index offence represented a significant escalation in violence. Your ability to go to such lengths is reflective of the threat you pose to public safety.

In review, your index offence profiles you as a very violent offender, with serious issues around sexual deviancy, emotional volatility, impulsivity, poor judgement and self-regulation, and a lack of consequential thinking, all of which justify the ongoing concern about the manageability of your risk.

Information from Victims

There are no victim impact statements or victim statements on file. Notwithstanding, given the violence unleashed and the loss of life, the Board recognizes the immeasurable loss and enduring grief the family and loved ones of the victim would have suffered and is mindful of such emotional and psychological impacts in its decision.

Section 99 of the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA) defines "serious harm" as "severe physical injury or severe psychological injury". The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) determined that the criteria for serious harm as set out in the CCRA have been met in this case.



Brief Overview of Criminal and Conditional Release History

According to your Fingerprint Sheet (FPS), your criminal history commenced in 1978 and includes convictions for Theft Over, Theft Under (x2), Break Enter & Theft, and Breach of Probation. Also noted are withdrawn charges, as well as a conditional discharge, for property related offences, and an acquittal for Armed Robbery.

The Criminal Profile Report also refers to prior sexual offending behaviour against a former partner and a young victim over whom you held a position of trust; however, no charges were laid in relation to these matters. Your former partner alleged that you tied her up and spread her legs, inserted a glass soft drink bottle into her vagina, and proceeded to masturbate her. You placed a gag in her mouth to prevent her from calling for help. The victim did not pursue charges but advised she would leave you if you assaulted her again. Approximately two years later, you again tied her to the bed and inserted a bottle into her vagina. She left the relationship.

In relation to the young female victim, the Children's Aid Society (CAS) became involved following allegations of sexual abuse committed against her. With the use of dolls, the young child depicted sexual acts (fellatio on the male doll from the female child doll) and referred to the male doll by what she called you. The CAS determined that the young child was likely abused, and that the perpetrator was likely you. The police were contacted, but due to the lack of independent corroboration, no further action was taken.

At the hearing, you denied the allegations of sexually assaulting your ex-partner and the young female victim. You told the Board your ex-partner and her boyfriends were abusing the young victim. You believe the allegations of the sexual abuse of the victim were your ex-partner's retaliation for the accusations you made against her, and you noted that she had psychological problems. You furthered that your ex-partner made the young female victim refer to her boyfriends as "Daddy", and that the reference to that when she was playing with the dolls reflected what she had been exposed to from them.

You admit to slapping your partner on one occasion after discovering she was having an affair. File information indicates you also reported you physically assaulted one of your partner's boyfriends when you discovered their affair, and that you hired an associate while incarcerated to physically assault another boyfriend who was reportedly responsible for physically, sexually, and emotionally abusing the young female victim; you are noted as remarking you wished you had that individual killed.

All these occurrences are concerning and indicate issues with violence and aggression.

Your history of community supervision has not been without issue as you have a prior conviction for Breach of Probation. However, it is notable you have been incarcerated most of your adult life.

In review, you have shown predatory and violent behaviour, dishonest crime, and a lack of deterrence. You have also demonstrated that being subject to a scheme of conditions has not informed your choices or conditioned your behaviours.

Risk Estimates

The Statistical Information on Recidivism (SIR) score does not apply to Indigenous offenders. The Criminal Risk Index Score (CRI) was not calculated in your case it came into practice after your incarceration.

The results of the Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) indicate you present a high risk for violence against an intimate partner.



During the completion of the Psychological Risk Assessment (PRA) dated October 22, 2025, actuarial instruments were applied including the Violence Risk Appraisal Guide (VRAG-R), the Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R), the STATIC-99R and the STABLE-2007. The results of these actuarial instruments indicate you are in the average range of risk for sexual recidivism, the high-moderate to high range of risk for violent recidivism, and the high end of the moderate range of risk for general recidivism, when all of the variables are considered.

These are elevated risks to reoffend, and although they are not determinative of the risk to reoffend, they provide valuable projections that are very concerning and that require effective risk-responsive strategies to be in place, to ensure your activities in the community will not present public safety concerns.

Self Control

Several factors have impeded your ability to exercise appropriate self-control. CSC has identified the areas of personal/emotional, attitude and substance abuse as contributing factors to your offending. You have committed sexually violent offences against both adult and child victims and have been diagnosed with pedohebephilia. You were under the influence of substances when you committed the index offence. All these factors are risk elevating.

Psychological/Psychiatric Information

In the October 2025 PRA, the psychologist noted historical mental health diagnoses, but observed you were likely experiencing personality issues rather than mental illness, and a psychiatric report completed in 2011 does not indicate you suffer from any major mental illness, affective disturbance or cognitive defect. You have been diagnosed with pedohebephilia. You are also noted to have schizophrenia. You continue to struggle with PTSD/trauma stemming from your childhood sexual victimization. You have a prior history of suicidal ideation and ten prior attempts, the most recent occurring in 1986.

File information indicates you engage in regular counselling sessions with mental health services for PTSD/trauma from your childhood sexual abuse. You present as emotionally stable and report that your mental health is overall stable, but you struggle with frequent nightmares, intrusive thoughts, and flashbacks related to your childhood sexual abuse victimization.

Mitigating Factors (Factors the Decrease Your Risk)

Despite the above, the following mitigating factors decrease your risk to reoffend, and the Board accords more weight to them.

Programming and Interventions

Your levels of intervention based on static factors and dynamic factors are rated high and medium (high at intake), respectively.

To address your need areas, you were referred to the institutional programming.

You have completed a number of programs over the course of your sentence. You received a grade of "attended all sessions" in the Aboriginal High Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program (2015), and successfully completed the National Substance Abuse Program Moderate Intensity (2010), National Moderate Intensity Sex Offender Program (2014), Aboriginal Basic Healing Program - Revised (2015), the Integrated Correctional Program Model (ICPM) Institutional Maintenance Program - Indigenous Sex Offender (July 2021), and the Community Integration Program (February 2025). According to the final program report for the ICPM Institutional Maintenance Program - Indigenous Sex Offender, your overall ability and commitment to use the skills required to manage your risk factors was assessed as "good".



In addition to core programming, you have completed two voluntary chapel programs, Grief & Loss and the Victim Impact Program, and you engage in regular counselling sessions with Mental Health Services.

Your completion of core and voluntary programs is risk mitigating. You have approached learning and all needed interventions with motivation, and to your credit, you received an encouraging program outcome for your Indigenous Sex Offender Maintenance program.

Psychological Risk Assessment

The psychologist for your most recent PRA (October 2025) concluded that there are no current behavioural or mental health concerns that would preclude UTA eligibility, and that UTAs are the next logical step in a gradual reintegration process, from a clinical perspective.

Personal Change

According to the current Correctional Plan Update (CPU) dated October 31, 2025, your accountability and reintegration potential are assessed as medium, and your motivation level is high.

At intake, CSC identified contributing factors to your criminal behaviour and assessed your level of difficulty in these areas as follows: considerable difficulty in the areas of marital/family, substance abuse, community functioning, personal/emotional and attitude, and some difficulty in the areas of employment and associates.

According to the current CPU, you require a moderate need for improvement in the areas of marital/family and community functioning, a low need for improvement in the areas of personal/emotional and attitude, and no need for improvement in the areas of employment, associates and substance abuse.

You have made measurable and observable gains in several domains. While two areas still show elevated outstanding needs, the Board recognizes the progress you have made in mitigating your dynamic areas of need, thereby incrementally reducing your risk to reoffend.

At the hearing, however, you were not really able to discuss relevant aspects of your history in any depth, skating lightly on pertinent areas such as your violence and aggression and sexual offending. You continue to hold distortions about your sexual assault of the victim that included bondage, the infliction of pain and the use of ligatures, indicating to the Board that the sex was “consensual at the time, but no more”. It is evident you were not attuned to the fact that the 14-year-old could not consent, and that even assuming minority were not an issue and there was consent, it could be withdrawn at any moment.

In terms of sexual reoffending and sexual interests, you could not tangibly outline any skills learned. Rather, you indicated that this is not a problem, offering that you do not have urges or fantasies anymore, and your sex organs are no longer functioning. However, a person does not necessarily require functioning sexual organs to offend sexually.

Again, despite your very violent index offence, violent acts against your ex-partner, and the instigation of violence against her boyfriends, you described yourself as a non-violent person, minimized your violence towards your ex-partner, deflected blame, and did not provide any insightful reflections around violence and aggression. It is apparent to the Board that you need to delve deeper into these matters.

That said, you recognize the role your substance abuse, associations and poor mental health played in your offending. You told the Board you had been abused, and that you self-medicated



with drugs and alcohol as there was no help for such things in those days. You stated you quit drinking from the point the index offence occurred, and have not abused drugs since 2014, when you sourced Tylenol 3 improperly from another inmate to manage pain from a fractured leg. You indicated you made a promise to your mother before she passed away that you would never abuse substances or get into trouble again, and that you are a person who keeps his word. You indicated you have no involvement in the institutional subculture, and in terms of interpersonal interactions, you avoid negative associates, relate well with others, and have not exhibited violence or aggression.

You stated you have been working on being a better person. You have taken core programs. You have been actively involved in the Pathways program, with the Indigenous Department, with the Open-Door Fellowship (Salvation Army), with the Chaplaincy, with Psychology, and with Inmate groups. You stated you have learned to take the eagle eye position to get a better view of situations, to be more open, to seek help, to stay away from young people, and from risky situations. You indicated you have learned to cook and bake, you like to help people, and when you feel stressed, you smudge and engage with nature. You indicated you will stay out of trouble as you do not want to return to jail.

In reflection, you have benefitted from risk relevant programming. While you need more clarity on certain predispositions, you are trying to rebuild your life, and you recognize it is important for you to remain committed to participating in interventions that will ensure sustainable change and help you to avoid recidivism. You are assessed as engaged in your Correctional Plan.

Conclusion on Risk Not Undue

It is undisputed that your index offending caused irreversible harm and would have adversely impacted other lives; Further, your prior criminal history reflects a problematic past that may have included deviant sexual behaviours. You have elevated assessments for general, violent and sexual recidivism, and for intimate partner violence, and you remain a high risk / medium needs offender. Without overlooking such realities and assessments, the Board also finds that you are on a pathway to rehabilitation, have reconnected to your Indigenous roots, and have embraced its disciplines and lessons. You have received risk-related programming through the years and have made gains in your progress towards Correctional Plan objectives.

Following its risk balancing of aggravating and mitigating factors, the Board finds that you will not present an undue risk to society for these three limited UTAs.

2. DESIRABILITY OF ABSENCE

CSC is of the opinion the UTAs are desirable so you can accomplish a number of goals identified, including becoming better acquainted with the staff and residents of the CBRF as well as the surrounding area; obtain your health card and identification; update required banking information and obtain a debit card; familiarize yourself with public transportation; seek Indigenous community resources, socialize with your brother; connect with Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA); find resources to support sobriety; and engage in Indigenous cultural activities at local Indigenous community centres. These UTAs will allow for continued gradual and structured reintegration of this case.

At the hearing, you told the Board you have become institutionalized. You believe the UTAs will help you forge connections with your family and community supports as you reintegrate into the society.

The Board agrees that these UTAs will be beneficial to you. They will enable you to familiarize yourself with the community and engage with available resources, which will assist your future



reintegration. In addition, you will be able to develop a greater rapport with CBRF staff and the community parole office. The objectives are linked to your gradual and eventual reintegration into society. You have been institutionalized for almost four decades, and your re-entry into the community must be guided, structured and supported, which the absences will afford. You can use these UTAs to show how you have developed over the years, and your motivation and ability to follow the expectations of the CBRF and imposed conditions.

For all these reasons, the Board concludes that it is desirable for you to be absent from the penitentiary.

3. BEHAVIOUR UNDER SENTENCE DOES NOT PRECLUDE ABSENCE

Institutional Behaviour

Your sentence began in 1987, and you demonstrated some institutional adjustment issues, primarily related to substance use, but have not incurred any institutional charges since 2014. You cascaded to minimum security in February 2022 and have maintained your security rating since that time. You are currently assessed with ratings of low institutional adjustment, low escape risk, and low public safety risk. There is no information to suggest you are involved in the institutional subculture. You lived on the Pathways unit for approximately three years but recently voluntarily decided to reside with the general population.

You have maintained institutional employment and have worked in different roles, such as on the grounds, with native medicines, and in the Chapel. You stated you currently work in the recycling department, teach others to cook and bake, and help a paraplegic inmate with his accessibility.

You have successfully completed approximately 25 ETAs for personal development and one administrative ETA to a CBRF for administrative reasons. You have also taken numerous ETAs for medical reasons. These visits into the community are invaluable opportunities to experience a routine outside the carceral environment and showcase the application of skill under different stressors.

Although there have historically been some issues with your institutional adjustment, the Board finds, overall, that you have demonstrated manageability, appropriate self-regulation, compliance with rules and expectations, cooperation with supervisors, and consequential thinking. These qualities should stand you in good stead for any community access.

The Board thus concludes that your behaviour while in custody does not preclude authorizing this absence.

4. STRUCTURED PLAN FOR THE ABSENCE

You initially applied for three UTAs of increasing duration; however, the area parole office was only supportive of three 72-hour UTAs, and you amended your application. You will travel by public transportation (either bus or train) from the institution to the CBRF, at your own expense. You will travel directly to the area parole office to meet with a parole officer to review conditions, expectations and plans for the UTA. You will then sign in at the area police service. Travel time is included in the 72-hour UTAs. Your parole officer told the Board you will be given explicit instructions on travel.

While CSC did not recommend any validity period for the UTAs, should they be authorized, your assistant recommended they be valid for six months (to be taken once every two months).

At the CBRF, you will be expected to comply with all requirements and curfew, to make positive



use of your time in the community and participate in pro-social activities, including attempting to locate suitable substance abuse treatment and Indigenous supports. You will keep record of all money given to you and keep receipts for all purchases made while in the community, and you must provide such to your parole officer if requested.

Further, you will be expected to abide by the rules, regulations and expectations of a minimum-security institution while participating in the UTAs to the community as they are considered to be an extension of custody. You will be expected to abide by all release conditions/expectations and be forthcoming and transparent with your CMT.

In reviewing the plan for the absences, the Board is satisfied that there is a structured plan in place. However, given the length of your incarceration and lack of any real exposure to, and familiarity with, the outside world, phones and transit systems, and the many changes that have taken place since you have been incarcerated, the Board expects CSC to escort you on the first of the three UTAs to minimize any stressors to you as you familiarize yourself with the community.

Concluding Assessment

After considering all the relevant factors, the Board authorizes three 72-hour UTAs for administrative reasons, to be taken over a 12-month period.

It is the Board's opinion that you will not, by reoffending, present an undue risk to society during the absences. In the Board's opinion, you also meet the other authorization requirements in that it is desirable for you to be absent from the penitentiary, your behaviour while under sentence does not preclude authorizing the absences, and a structured plan for the absences has been prepared.

REASONS FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS

The Board imposes the following special conditions on your UTAs because they are considered reasonable and necessary in order to protect society and the victim(s) and to facilitate your successful reintegration into society. These conditions are imposed for the duration of the absences. The Board may remove or modify any special condition(s) upon receipt of a recommendation from CSC.

You are to have no direct or indirect contact with any member of the victim's family. The deceased victim's family lost a family member and would have suffered emotional and psychological harm due to your actions. The Board is satisfied that any contact from you would re-traumatize them. To avoid chance encounters, the Board considers this condition necessary in light of these victim concerns.

Your lifestyle choices of substance abuse and crime essentially placed you within the circles of criminal peers and negative associates. To separate you from peers and associates involved in crime or who subscribe to criminally oriented values and sentiments, and who could draw you back into illicit activity, you must have no contact with persons involved or believed to be involved in criminal activity.

You had a problem with both alcohol and drugs and were reportedly using at the time of the index murder. Substance abuse has clearly been a contributing factor to your offending. The use of substances compromises judgement and rationality, and although you currently show no immediate need for improvement in the area of substance abuse, it is beyond dispute that a return to substances will increase your risk to reoffend. As such, the Board imposes two related conditions. You must not consume, purchase or possess drugs or alcohol. These conditions will assist in recidivism prevention and will set you up for a successful reintegration.

