

VeilBreakers Workshops — Chaplaincy Alignment

Addendum (Detention Sites, Canada)

Purpose: Ensure that any faith-forward elements of VeilBreakers within youth or adult detention facilities are delivered under chaplaincy authority, remain voluntary, multi-faith aware, and compliant with Correctional Service Canada (CSC) directives and comparable provincial youth-justice practices.

A. Governing Principles

- 1) Voluntary and rights-respecting: Participation in religious or spiritual activities is always voluntary. Freedom of religion is retained during incarceration, with accommodation provided within operational limits.
- 2) Chaplaincy-led or facilitated: Religious and spiritual activities are provided or facilitated by chaplains recognized by their faith communities (Qualified Persons Ordained or Recognized, QPOR). When a community leader is unavailable, the chaplain may supervise a gathering under written guidance.
- 3) Multi-faith and inclusive: Chaplaincy services respond to inmates' spiritual needs regardless of belief; interfaith sacred spaces are managed to respect all traditions.

B. Where VeilBreakers Fits

- 1) Core program: Values-based, non-devotional sessions can operate within education or programming blocks, with custody staff present.
- 2) Faith-forward sessions: Any prayer, Scripture reflection, or identity-in-Christ content runs only under chaplaincy scheduling, in appropriate space, clearly marked as voluntary.
- 3) Indigenous spirituality: Where an Indigenous partner leads, Elders or Knowledge-Keepers guide practices. Data and stories follow OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, Possession) via a separate MOU.

C. Space, Leaders, and Volunteers

- 1) Space: Use designated interfaith sacred space or chaplain-approved rooms. Observe protocols for symbols, storage, and scheduling so no group dominates access.
- 2) Leaders: Group religious activities are led by external faith-community recognized leaders or representatives. In their absence, the chaplain may supervise with written instructions from that tradition.
- 3) Volunteers: Screened and trained per facility policy; coordinated by chaplaincy.

D. Safeguards and Boundaries

- 1) Non-coercion: No pressured participation or disclosure. Proselytizing that disregards voluntariness is not permitted.
- 2) Trauma-informed practice: Safety, choice, and cultural humility are maintained. Escalation paths follow facility protocols; mandated reporting applies.

3) Records and privacy: Any participant feedback is anonymized. Identifiable data remains with the facility; Indigenous-led data follows OCAP via MOU.

E. Scheduling and Documentation

1) Request: Submit a brief session plan to the institutional chaplain, identifying leaders, materials, space needs, and headcount.

2) Calendar: Chaplain confirms time and space in coordination with operations. Custody staff presence is arranged by the institution.

3) Post-session: Provide a short note to chaplaincy on attendance and general observations; exclude personal health information.

Key References

CSC Commissioner's Directive 750 — Chaplaincy Services (2025 update).

CSC Guidelines 750-2 — Management of Interfaith Sacred Space (2024).

CSC Guidelines 750-1 — Inmate Religious Accommodations (2016).

CSC Chaplaincy Services overview and Mandate and Law pages (2020–2025).

Provincial youth justice is administered by provinces; chaplaincy and Indigenous spirituality access are provided per provincial policy.

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