

**Ministry of Children,
Community
and Social Services**

Youth Justice Division

Direct Operated Facilities Branch

Director's Office

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**Ministère des Services
à l'enfance et des
Services sociaux et
communautaires**

Division de la justice pour la
jeunesse

Direction des établissements
directement administrés
par le ministère

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127-2020-14642

Brent Larmer
blarmer@cobourg.ca

Dear Brent,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the status of Brookside Youth Centre (BYC) within the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), Youth Justice Division.

Since the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect in April 2003, there has been a focus on prevention, diversion and community-based programs. This has contributed to a 78 per cent reduction in the number of youth admitted to custody and detention in Ontario.

It is important to note that BYC is MCCSS' only directly-operated secure custody/detention facility for youth in East Region. The Ontario government is presently reviewing all youth open and secure custody facilities as per the Provincial Budget announcement.

The modernization of youth justice services is to ensure we have the right spaces in the right places to address the needs of youth.

I trust this information will be helpful to you. Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Paul Wheeler