

Key Messages

Offender Eustachio Gallese

- First and foremost, our thoughts remain with the family and friends of Ms. Levesque.
- Our priority is the safety and security of Canadians, and we take this tragic incident very seriously.
- Under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA), all offenders in federal custody, including those serving a life sentence, are eligible for parole consideration at some point in their sentence.
- Parole is not automatic, and the paramount consideration in all Parole Board of Canada decisions is the protection of society.
- Parole decisions involve a thorough risk assessment conducted by PBC Board members who assess whether or not the offender will present an undue risk to society if released into the community, and whether the release contributes to public safety and to the reintegration of the offender.
- Parole contributes to public safety through the gradual, managed and supervised release of offenders into the community.
- Gradual and supervised releases provide the best protection for our communities, and day parole is one of the steps in the continuum of release.
- Violent offences by individuals on day parole are exceedingly rare. In 2018-19, 99.9 per cent of offenders on day parole completed their supervision period without being convicted of a new violent offence.
- Our Board members are thoroughly trained in risk-assessment. Upon appointment, Board members complete an intensive five-week Board member orientation session. During that time, they receive training on relevant law, policy and risk assessment by PBC in partnership with key academics and practitioners in the field of criminal justice.
- No Board member is assigned any decision-making responsibilities until they have fully completed their training and have the confidence of their Regional Vice-Chairperson.
- The CSC and the PBC have convened a joint Board of Investigation into this case to look at the circumstances surrounding this incident and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to prevent similar incidents from happening again.

- The Board of Investigation is composed of five members, including two external co-chairs who are criminologists. The Board of Investigation also includes two representatives from CSC and one from PBC.
- We will share the results of this investigation once completed, including any recommendations that will be implemented.