

WOMENS PRISON NETWORK



ISSUE #44 ~ FALL 2026

< Editor's Note >

Welcome to Issue #44 of Women's Prison Network, a zine by & for women, trans & youth prisoners on Treaty Lands with Canada.



In every Issue we strive to provide a safe space for creative expression, informative news & support resources. These zines feature art, poetry, stories, news, observations, concerns, & anything of sincere value to share.

Health & Harm Reduction info will always be provided, of course - Yes, Do Be Safe!

Quality & Quantity:

Items printed are those that are common for diverse readers, so no religious items please.

Artwork: Black pen (tat-style) works the best.

Cover Artist will receive a \$25 donation.

Writings: only short poems, news, stories, ...

Items selected are those that fit nicely & allow space for others (½ page = 300 words max).

For author protection, letters & story credits will all be 'Anonymous' unless requested.

'Women's Prison Network' is published 4 times per year.

It is sent out for free to Women, Trans & Youth in Prisons in Canada.

If you are on the outside or part of an organization, please consider a donation!!!

Editor: Iola

Publication: Women's Prison Network

Publisher: PrisonFreePress.org
PO Box 39, Stn P
Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6

Circulation: 150+

Recirculation: ???

info@WomensPrisonNetwork.org

All original artwork, poems & writings are the sole/soul property of the artist & author.

Fair Dealing & the Canadian Copyright Act
Sections 29, 29.1, 29.2:

"Fair dealing for the purpose of research, private study, education, parody, satire, criticism, review, and news reporting does not infringe copyright."

< Contents >

News	3-9
Resources.....	10-16

< Artists in this Issue >

Cover: Melissa Winter-Stone



< Donations for this Issue >

Very special thanks out to: You!

Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms

- The right of life, liberty and security of person (Section 7).
- The right not to be arbitrarily detained (Section 9).
- The right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment (Section 12).
- The right to be equal before and under the law (Section 15).

< Ancestral Territorial Acknowledgment >

We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which Prison Free Press operates is the Traditional Territory of the Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

~ 'Dish With One Spoon' Wampum ~

Prison Lawsuits in Canada (News Reports)

A collection of articles from 2003 to 2026:
PrisonFreePress.org/Prison_Lawsuits_in_Canada

(let us know of any others to include!)

Settlement Reached in Ontario Training Schools Class Action Lawsuit

Today, the Government of Ontario and Warwick (Rick) Brown, court-appointed representative plaintiff, jointly announced that the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has approved a \$60 million settlement agreement reached in the Ontario Training Schools class action lawsuit. The settlement is the result of a class action lawsuit brought against Ontario by individuals who resided at 13 Ontario Training Schools between 1953 and 1984. Individuals who suffered historic harm at these training schools during the following time periods are eligible to submit a claim for compensation of up to \$100,000:

- Pine Ridge School, Bowmanville between January 1, 1953 and 1979
- Cold Springs Forestry Camp between January 1, 1963 and 1976
- Hillcrest School, Guelph between January 1, 1953 and 1978
- Brookside School, Cobourg between January 1, 1953 and April 2, 1984
- Trelawney House, Port Bolster between August 1959 and 1973
- Kawartha Lakes School, Lindsay between 1962 and 1979
- Glendale School, Simcoe between 1962 and July 30, 1974
- White Oaks Village, Hagersville between 1966 and 1978
- Sprucedale School, Hagersville between 1966 and April 2, 1984
- Cecil Facer School, Sudbury between 1971 and April 2, 1984
- Project DARE – Portage Lake between June 1971 and 1976
- Project DARE – Wendigo Lake, South River between 1972 and April 2, 1984
- Syl Apps Youth Centre between 1958 and April 2, 1984

The claims administrator will provide eligible former students with information about the claims process and how to apply for compensation.

Quotes:

"These schools operated in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Any abuse that kids suffered at these schools was wrong. It was wrong then. It is wrong now. We acknowledge and regret the harm that kids experienced in these institutions. One goal of this settlement is to assist former Training Schools residents to move forward with their lives. This settlement is similar to other settlements regarding historical harms at other institutions. While we cannot change the past, we can compensate victims today and hopefully help them as they heal. Moving forward, we must remain vigilant to ensure that these harms become a relic of the past. This action was started in 2017; this government is proud to have been able to resolve it fairly."

- Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario

"Victims of abuse at Ontario Training Schools were just ordinary kids. They were removed from their families and placed in these schools, where many of them suffered terrible abuse – both physical and sexual. I was about ten years old when I was sent to Brookside Training School in 1963. The abuse I suffered there forever altered the course of my life. I have been involved in this action since 2018. I have been the representative plaintiff since 2022. I am so glad we have finally reached a settlement that will bring this action to an end for all Class members. I agreed to be the representative plaintiff because I know that so many children suffered in the Training Schools. So many kids left those schools broken. This settlement is about giving those kids a voice. It was extremely important to me that the compensation process be trauma informed. I'm proud of what we achieved with this process. It is survivor centric and user-friendly. It is an extremely streamlined process that does everything possible to avoid retraumatization."

- Warwick Brown
Court-appointed Representative Plaintiff

Attorney General
June 26, 2026

Critics question federal prison agency's AI plans for inmate assessments

Experts are urging Correctional Service Canada to slow down after it claimed using artificial intelligence to help create criminal profile reports for prisoners would save time and maintain accuracy, despite using just six text cases in a trial.

The warnings come as CSC considers rolling out generative AI tools that would summarize sensitive documents used to write influential assessment profiles of offenders going to prisons, as the Star has reported, raising alarm about the potential for the summaries to be tainted by AI-generated hallucinations or biases.

Criminal profile reports are "foundational documents" prepared by CSC staff during a prisoner's intake process that identify risks and play a role in major decisions like access to programs and likelihood of parole.

Drawing from scores of other documents, they include details about: an offender's criminal history; the circumstances of their crimes; patterns of violence; behavioural, mental health and addiction issues; family and social background; trauma history; education and employment records; and victim impact statements.

Sorelle Friedler, a professor of computer science at Haverford College who helped develop AI policy for former U.S. president Joe Biden, said "there's no way to prove anything" with a trial of just six cases.

Because of the unique circumstances of all offenders and their crimes, Friedler argued a proper test for biases and errors would have to include thousands of "hand-validated" cases covering every single crime in Canada more than once.

"It's just absurd," she told the Star. "You would want to have enough individuals to genuinely cover the wide range of circumstances that individuals coming in have experienced."

And even that might not be enough because of the higher risk of using AI in a criminal justice context, she said, including "embedded demographic biases."

On top of AI potentially adding false information to document summaries, using AI to generate them would be even more difficult and time-

consuming to spot crucial data being omitted, she said.

After a small-scale trial using fictional and anonymized data, CSC told the Star the tools produced "measurable time savings" and were "also found to maintain the accuracy of information, as parole officers still manually input the compiled information and conduct a final review to ensure its accuracy."

"CSC is currently reviewing the outcomes of this evaluation and considering potential next steps," spokesperson Esther Mailhot said. She said there is no "specific timeline" for a decision, including on whether a more extensive pilot project would be conducted.

Mailhot had previously suggested further testing would be needed to assess potential biases in AI-generated summaries, because doing so was "constrained" in the initial limited test.

Jenny Kwan, the NDP's public safety critic, said the government's talk of safeguards is not sufficient. She is calling for an independent assessment, broad stakeholder engagement, and checks and balances on any potential rollout.

"I think that the issues and concerns around biases that are embedded into the AI system is still there. They have not addressed that issue," Kwan told the Star. "The government needs to be open and transparent with this."

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree declined to comment when reached by the Star.

Justice Minister Sean Fraser said he acknowledged concerns but also generally sees an opportunity with AI, which the Carney government is increasingly adopting.

AI is "rapidly changing the world" and "the right path forward will involve careful steps where we use new tools to ensure that we can deal with backlogs and systems to ensure that we're reducing the reliance on taxpayers' money to deliver services to Canadians," Fraser said.

"But at the same time, we need to have guardrails in place that give different communities across Canada confidence that their privacy interests won't be violated, that they won't be discriminated against on the basis of the community from which they come."

Jennifer Evans, principal at the consulting and research firm PatternPulse AI, said the information provided by the government following the trial is "really unclear" and lacking in detail.

She said there are other tools, such as optical character recognition, that can summarize documents without the same risk of error as AI tools based on pattern recognition.

Where AI excels, she said, is in its speed and in determining trends in the data.

"There's no human capability or sort of traditional computing capability that can do pattern recognition at the scale or rate that AI can, but the correctness of the information is the biggest question," Evans said.

Mark Ramzy
The Star
Jul 12, 2026

The Prisoner's Lament

*They want me to be nonviolent,
And surround me with violence.*

*They want me to make better choices,
And remove all meaningful choice.*

*They want me to respect the law,
And entangle me in petty rules, arbitrarily
enforced.*

*They want me to stop being hard,
And put me where only toughness is respected.*

*They want me to be responsible,
And take away all responsibility.*

*And then they blame ME if my behavior doesn't
change.
Effective correction is motivated by love, not fear.*

- John W

A month-long stay:

*in a hospital can cost more than \$13,500;
in a prison, more than \$4,000;
in a shelter, more than \$2,000;
in supportive housing, just \$600.*

Important Legal Advice ?!

I never met a litigator who did not think that he was winning the case right up to the moment when the guillotine came down.

- William Baxter

Lawyers are the only persons in whom ignorance of the law is not punished.

- Jermy Bentham

Lawyer: One skilled in the circumvention of the law.

- Ambrose Bierce

Be frank and explicit with your lawyer. It is their business to confuse the issue afterwards.

- Anonymous

Necessity knows no law; I know some attorneys of the same.

- Benjamin Franklin

A countryman between two lawyers is like a fish between two cats.

- Benjamin Franklin

Lawyers are those whom we hire to protect us from lawyers.

- Elbert Hubbard

It is always the best policy to tell the truth, unless, of course, you are an exceptionally good liar.

- Jerome K. Jerome

The only thing I expect out of lawyers is that they be back in their coffins by sun-up.

- F. Ross Johnson

Lawyers, I suppose, were children once.

- Charles Lamb

Lawyers should never marry other lawyers.

This is called "inbreeding," from which comes idiot children and more lawyers.

- Kip Lurie

The law is a sort of hocus-pocus science that smiles in your face while it picks your pocket.

- H.L. Mencken

Lawyers are like beavers. They get in the mainstream and damn it up.

- John Naisbitt

A man without money needs no more fear a crowd of lawyers than a crowd of pickpockets.

- R. Rinkle

Lawyers are like rhinoceroses: thick skinned, short-sighted, and always ready to charge.

- David Mellor

Make crime pay. Become a Lawyer.

- Will Rogers

Legal groups seek injunction, argue Ontario's new 'cash bail' system is unconstitutional

A pair of legal organizations launched a constitutional challenge against Ontario's new "cash bail" system on Monday as justices of the peace and provincial court judges began navigating the first day under the controversial rules.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and Criminal Lawyers' Association (CLA) are also seeking a temporary injunction from the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to pause the 48-hour cash deposit rule.

Ontario enacted Bill 75 earlier this year, and the section requiring an accused person - or the sureties supervising them - to post upfront cash bail took effect Monday. Anyone released on a promise to pay, or their sureties, must deposit the full amount within two business days or face provincial prosecution under the Provincial Offences Act. A conviction could result in a fine up to \$5,000.

The CCLA and CLA say the cash bail provisions create two tiers of justice: "one that works for the rich, and one that needlessly punishes the rest of Ontarians," said a news release issued by the CLA, which represents 1,800 defence lawyers in Ontario.

"People presumed innocent across Ontario who cannot afford to pay a security deposit will be more likely to be left in jail. An accused person or potential surety would risk provincial prosecution if they are unable to raise enough cash in time after the accused's release from custody."

In Canada, the federal government creates criminal laws. The provinces and territories administer the justice system and run provincial courts.

In their notice of motion for an injunction filed Monday in Superior Court, the CCLA and CLA argue Ontario's new system is an "attempt to unconstitutionally rewrite" the law under exclusive federal jurisdiction. "Even if Ontario could legislate in this area, the cash bail provisions conflict with the Criminal Code, which expressly requires courts to favour promises to pay over cash deposits. What Parliament made the exception, Ontario has made the rule."

In addition, the groups argue the cash bail provisions violate the Charter right not to be

denied reasonable bail without just cause, and undermine the presumption of innocence.

"Accused Ontarians will remain in jail because they cannot afford to pay cash bail or cannot find a surety able to deposit cash immediately after their release. That is neither reasonable nor just," states the motion, written by lawyers Matthew Gourlay, Stephanie DiGiuseppe, Brandon Chung and Jacob Roth of the prominent Toronto law firm Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP.

Payment must be made in cash, bank draft or money order at the Ontario Court of Justice.

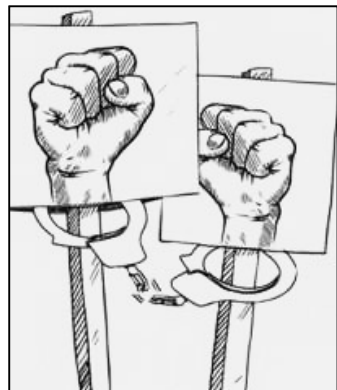
If an accused person follows the terms of his or her release, the money is returned if bail conditions have been met. If not, the government keeps the money. People are not held in custody pending payment.

Under the old system, accused people, or their sureties, pledge a cash deposit as part of a condition of their release. If the accused breaches the condition of their bail, they or their sureties may lose that money under the "estreatment" process.

Attorney General Doug Downey announced the change would take effect Monday at a news conference last week.

Confidence in the justice system depends not only on courts imposing bail conditions, but on "meaningful consequences" when they are breached, he said.

Betsy Powell
The Star
Aug 17, 2026



Manitoba inmates placed in solitary confinement can soon seek compensation

Some inmates who were placed in solitary confinement in Manitoba-run jails will soon be able to apply for compensation after a settlement in a class-action lawsuit was approved this week.

Manitoba Court of King's Bench Justice Theodor Bock authorized a \$129-million settlement agreement on Thursday following months of negotiations between the provincial government and class-action counsel.

The lawsuit alleged the province's use of solitary confinement, which has been described as segregating someone to a room or area without meaningful contact for at least 22 hours in a day, was negligent and breached sections of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Proactio, the company administering the claims, says Manitoba denied liability but opted to resolve the lawsuit without a trial.

The settlement will see eligible class members receive payments starting at \$3,000 for adults and \$9,000 for youth, with the maximum compensation available being up to \$100,000 depending on circumstances.

James Sayce, lead class-action counsel, says the claims process will open up in the coming weeks and will remain open for a year.

"We think it's a very fair outcome. We believe that it will provide quite generous compensation to class members. It recognizes the seriousness of the allegations," he said on Friday.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Matt Wiebe acknowledged the court's approval of the settlement.

"Further comments will be reserved pending the release of the written decision," the statement said.

The class-action was first filed in 2021 and was supposed to go to trial last November but was adjourned so the parties could work together on a settlement.

It applies to three groups of people who were subjected to solitary confinement – current and former inmates living with mental-health illnesses who were put into isolation beginning Sept. 12, 2012; current and former inmates under the age of 18 who were segregated for any period beginning Sept. 12, 2006; and any inmate who was placed in solitary confinement for 15

consecutive days or more between Sept. 12, 2006 to now.

It's unclear how many people this would impact, but Sayce estimated it could be "thousands and thousands."

Part of the settlement conditions include reforming segregation practices in Manitoba institutions.

Sayce said class-counsel will meet with representatives from Manitoba to develop a reform process that is aimed at improving the conditions of confinement in provincial jails.

"Our hope is that solitary confinement is not practiced. It's one thing to temporarily separate a person from the rest of the correctional population, but it's another thing completely to put them in conditions that amount to solitary confinement."

The use of solitary confinement has been widely criticized over the years, with the practice being described as cruel, inhumane and a form of torture.

Research has shown that the effects can lead to the deterioration of an inmate's physical and mental health.

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, an organization that provides support to women and gender-diverse people in the prison system, has said Indigenous women, Black women, the gender-diverse and others from marginalized communities are subjected to these types of stays more often than other inmates.

The settlement of the class-action suit in Manitoba follows similar cases in other provinces.

The British Columbia government settled a class-action lawsuit for up to \$60 million over the use of solitary confinement in provincial correctional facilities over a period of 20 years. One was settled in Ontario in the amount of \$30 million.

Brittany Hobson
The Canadian Press
Jun 5, 2026

None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free.

- Pearl S. Buck

Small Claims Get Big Results

As a visible minority and a lifer I've experienced the worst CSC has to offer. I've done it all in terms of physically reacting to CSC maltreatment and yes, the momentary gratification is good but the consequences suck. So what else can I do to make things better for me and for the next guy? I found the solution! Lawyers are expensive so why not sue individual CSC employees in Small Claims Court?

So I tried it myself in Mar 2012 in QC. Surprise, surprise, I received an immediate settlement. In BC where max payouts for Small Claims are \$25,000 + expenses/costs, I went after more CSC individual employees under 'Roncarelli' a Supreme Court decision that says if an employee violates policy then you can sue the individual if you want and you don't need to go through all of the BS of Federal Court.

Well, now I'm receiving settlements on the regular, guards at Kent have been fired, conditions are improving for cons wherever I go. Illegal segregation placement constitutes a loss of liberty. I have recent case law of \$4,000 and \$10,000 per day for loss of liberty.

All 'Use of Force' (CD 567-1) are received by Ottawa and if you file a 3rd Level National Grievance, call the Correctional Investigator to file an additional complaint, and then fill out a CSC Offender Privacy Act Request form (CSC form 1381) asking for all video/emails/Security Incident Reports/Executive Summaries disclosure, you will then start to get the results you are looking for! If 'they' tell you 'the video no longer exists', they are lying. CSC keeps all video for 30 days min. and on 'Use of Force' for 2 years min.

Call your local Provincial Court for Small Claims Rules, Forms, etc. Filing fees are 'waived' for most cons. Learn & know your rights and even more importantly, exercise your rights!

Make the guards & their negligent bosses pay, and trust me when I tell you this, it prevents and stops a lot of BS too as there is absolutely nothing a guard hates more than paying a con money from his paycheck.

I document everything, file Grievances, and call in Verbal Complaints to the Correctional Investigator/ Human Rights Commission for any maltreatment. I remind myself to be patient and not to flip out!

Anonymous, NS, 2013

Roncarelli v. Duplessis, [1959] S.C.R. 121

Roncarelli v. Duplessis, [1959] S.C.R. 121, was a landmark constitutional decision of the Supreme Court of Canada where the Court held that Maurice Duplessis, the premier of Quebec, had overstepped his authority by revoking the liquor licence of a Jehovah's Witness. Justice Rand wrote in his often-quoted reasons that the unwritten constitutional principle of the "rule of law" meant no public official was above the law, that is, they could neither suspend it or dispense it. Though he had the authority to do this by the law granting him the discretion, he overstepped the reasons why he held this. It is held as an example of a ruling showing we need, and have, rules governing the granting of authority.

Background

Frank Roncarelli was a successful restaurant owner and practicing Jehovah's Witness in Montreal. He was very active in the Jehovah's Witness community and used his wealth to support persecuted members by offering bail security for those who had been arrested by the municipal government.

At the time, sometimes violent tension between the dominant Roman Catholic community and the Jehovah's Witness community saw increasing arrests of Jehovah's Witness members for giving out copies of their magazines without the necessary permits under a city by-law which was later determined to be unconstitutional in *Saumur v. The City of Quebec*.

Roncarelli furnished bail for over 375 Jehovah's Witness members in three years and many were arrested multiple times.

The Chief Prosecutor of the city, Oscar Gagnon, overwhelmed by the number of Witnesses being arrested and then set free by Roncarelli's intervention, contacted the Premier who spoke to Edouard Archambault, Chairman of the Quebec Liquor Commission. Roncarelli's liquor licence was subsequently revoked. Extensive testimony showed the government actors believed Roncarelli was disrupting the court system, causing civil disorder, and was therefore not entitled to the liquor licence. Roncarelli was told that he was "forever" barred from holding a liquor licence and that this action was a warning to others that they would similarly be stripped of

provincial "privileges" if they persisted in their activities related to the Witnesses.

Roncarelli received news of the revocation in December 1946, and while he tried to keep his business open without the licence, it was not profitable and he put it up for sale within six months. Consequently, he brought an action against Duplessis for \$90,000 in damages.

At trial, the Québec Court of Queen's Bench found in favour of Roncarelli, however it was overturned on appeal.

Decision of the Court

In a 6-to-3 decision, the Supreme Court of Canada reinstated the trial decision; holding that Duplessis wrongfully caused the revocation of Roncarelli's liquor licence.

The six judges who sided with Roncarelli used different legal reasoning to reach their decision. Three judges wrote that Duplessis had ordered the cancellation which was outside his authority as premier; two judges stated that although Duplessis had the power to order the cancellation, he had done so in bad faith; and the sixth judge concluded the premier was not entitled to immunity as a public official.

Roncarelli was awarded \$33,123.53 in damages, a fraction of his claim, plus costs in the Court of Queen's Bench and the Supreme Court of Canada. Roncarelli's son, however, maintained that it was a significant moral victory in his father's struggle against the system.

Roncarelli's legal counsel throughout were A.L. Stein and Professor Frank Scott.

Duplessis died shortly after the verdict.

Dissent

Cartwright J. wrote a dissenting judgement which argued that it was within the power of the commission to refuse to grant Roncarelli a permit as the act only fettered the commission by delineating circumstances under which the granting of a permit was forbidden and circumstances in which the cancellation of a permit was mandatory, and nothing more. Cartwright J. argued that as this was an administrative tribunal, and not a judicial one, it was "a law unto itself" and did not need to base its decision on anything more than policy and expediency. Cartwright J. went on to argue that even if the commission were to be considered quasi-judicial, in which case procedural fairness

guarantees would apply, that still would not entitle the plaintiff to monetary damages.

The court's francophone judges supported Duplessis, and had done so in other cases of abuse of power by the government of Duplessis. Two were sons of previous premiers of Quebec.

Inmates in need are generally in Seg and when they are not, it is extremely difficult to navigate through the 'red tape' and restrictions placed on us. To actually get a hold of a Small Claims Court in a court house in the Pacific Region, here is how to help yourself and others. If you are in another region, this process may not be exactly the same, but you will understand what to do.

First, call Inquiries BC at 1-800-663-7867. Tell the operator you are a Federal Inmate and that you require them to stay online until you are completely connected to the Court House Small Claims Department. If you are in Kent or Mountain, ask for Chilliwack Court House. Ask for 'Small Claims Forms' and for 'Request to Register Forms'. Always ask for extras, 10-15. Hand out the ones you will not need. It is free to file as a Federal Inmate.

Every Region is a little bit different, such as Information numbers. Keep your head up.



Nothing in life is to be feared.
It is only to be understood.

- Marie Curie

Jailhouse Jumble

S	V	I	S	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	O	N	C
E	U	T	E	N	Y	R	P	A	R	O	L	E	D
G	A	I	O	S	N	O	I	S	E	U	P	E	L
R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	A	U	L	T	G	I
E	C	B	A	I	L	E	C	B	L	A	T	O	F
G	O	O	F	T	D	A	R	P	G	U	U	T	E
A	P	J	U	U	N	E	U	Y	S	N	L	D	R
T	P	T	S	T	W	K	W	A	A	D	A	K	T
I	E	T	E	I	C	A	E	A	Y	R	E	C	R
O	R	E	C	O	L	L	E	C	T	Y	D	O	I
N	N	H	L	N	P	O	K	E	R	C	C	L	H
E	X	C	L	A	P	U	G	U	J	H	H	B	S
W	I	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	D	A	T	E	E
F	S	A	I	I	E	R	E	M	A	N	D	H	U
I	G	E	V	Z	P	A	C	K	A	G	E	T	L
S	I	S	O	E	O	R	A	N	G	E	A	N	B
H	B	N	M	D	N	A	B	A	R	T	N	O	C

Words: forward, backward, diagonal, up & down.

Use the leftover letters to reveal a helpful hint.

BAIL
BIG SIX
BLUE SHIRT
BREW
CANTEEN
COLLECT (call)
CONTRABAND
COPPER
DEAL
GATED
GOOF
INSTITUTIONALIZED
JUG UP
LAUNDRY CHANGE
LIFER
LOCK UP
MOVIE (up)
NEW FISH

NOISE UP
ON THE BLOCK
ORANGE
PACKAGE
PAROLED
PLEA
POKER
RAT
REACTION
RELEASE DATE
REMAND
SEARCH
SEGREGATION
SUICIDE WATCH
TRADE
TRIAL
VISITATION
YARD

Book Clubs for Inmates (BCFI)

Book Clubs for Inmates (BCFI) is a registered charity that organizes volunteer-led book clubs within federal penitentiaries across Canada. Currently, BCFI is facilitating 30 book clubs from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

BCFI runs French and English language book clubs for men and women incarcerated in minimum, medium, and maximum security facilities. Book clubs are usually made up of 10-18 members who meet once a month to discuss books, both fiction and non-fiction of literary merit.

Every month, hundreds of inmates participate in book clubs across the country and each year thousands of brand new books are purchased, read, and discussed.

Book Clubs for Inmates
720 Bathurst St.
Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4

Prison Radio

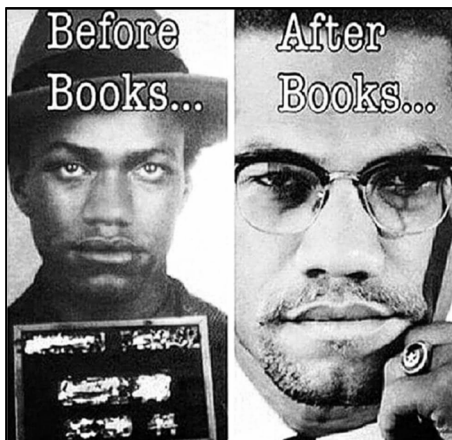
- Halifax – CKDU 88.1 FM
Black Power Hour – Wed 9 pm
- Montreal – CKUT 90.3 FM
PRS – 2nd Thurs 5-6 pm & 4th Fri 11-noon
- Guelph – CFRU 93.3 FM
Prison Radio – Thurs 10-11 am
Call-in 519-837-2378
- Vancouver – CFRO 100.5 FM
Stark Raven – 1st Mon 7-8 pm
- Kingston – CFRC 101.9 FM
CPR – Wed 7-8 pm

The CPR program features content produced by CFRC volunteers and by other campus and community radio broadcasters, including CKUT Montreal's Prison Radio and Vancouver Co-op Radio's Stark Raven programs.

CPR features 'Calls From Home', sharing letters, emails, voice messages and music requests by and for prisoners and their loved ones on the last Wed of each month.

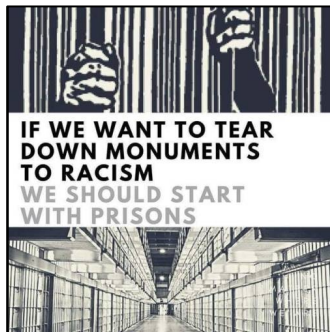
Prisoners and their loved ones are invited to contribute music requests, messages and suggestions for the program.

Write: CPR c/o CFRC, Lower Carruthers Hall,
Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6
Email: CFRCprisonradio@riseup.net
Call: 613-417-3359 to record a message or
music request to be broadcast on-air.



I have often reflected upon the new vistas that reading has opened to me. I knew right there in prison that reading had changed forever the course of my life. As I see it today, the ability to read awoke inside me some long dormant craving to be mentally alive.

- Malcolm X



What you have become is the price you paid to get what you used to want.

- Mignon McLaughlin

Toll-Free Support Line for SK Prisoners

For prisoners in Provincial jails & Federal prisons in Saskatchewan.

Funds will be used to help inmates purchase call packages to keep them connected to their family, help out with canteen for necessary things & for transportation home. Maintained by prisoner advocacy groups Beyond Prison Walls Canada and Inmates for Humane Conditions.

☎ 1-866-949-0074 ☎

Phone Line for Disabled Prisoners who Experience Ableism and Racism in Ont.

www.djno.ca

OUT of PRISON: 905-973-4332

TRAPP Phone Numbers (Toll Free):

Hamilton - 905-631-4084

Kenora - 807-548-4312

London - 519-690-0836

Milton - 416-775-7938

Niagara - 905-227-5066

Ottawa - 613-768-9951

Jail Hotline for MCC, OCI, TEDC, TSDC & VCV

The Toronto Prisoners' Rights Project (TPRP) provides prisoners with free links to advocacy, referrals, information, and support through the Jail Hotline. This hotline is run by volunteers. It will take calls on:

Monday - Saturday

9-11am & 2-4pm

☎ 416-307-2273 ☎

Why a Jail Hotline?

Prisons and jails carry out human rights abuses every day because they do not think anyone is watching. We are here in solidarity and struggle with prisoners.

Who Should Call This Hotline?

Please share the hotline with your loved ones inside. We cannot accept calls from other prisons or jails or from people in the community.

If you need to contact us outside of the line, you can message us on social media or an email to:

TorontoPrisonersRightsProject@gmail.com

NEW! Jail Hotline for EMDC

Mon - Wed - Fri - Sat

9-11am & 2-4pm

☎ 519-642-9289 ☎

Prison Visiting Rideshare Project

The Prison Rideshare is an ongoing project of Bar None to connect people with rides to visit their friends and loved ones who are in prison in Manitoba.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting a ride to visit one of southern Manitoba's prisons, if you are interested in volunteering, or for more info contact: barnone.wpg@gmail.com

Rides can also be arranged by phone or text message: 204-599-8869 (It's ideal to request a ride at least 5-7 days in advance).

Incarcerated in Canada? Need Information?

Write On! is an all-volunteer group whose goal is to support prisoners in Canada by researching the information you need, such as:

General legal info, prison rules & policies, resources, programs, services, etc.

Write to us at:

Write ON!

234-110 Cumberland St,
Toronto, ON, M5R 3V5

The reward for conformity is everyone likes you, but yourself.

- Rita Mae Brown

Children of Inmates Reading Program (ChIRP)

"Reading aloud is the single most important thing a parent or caregiver can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning"

"Reading is the gateway to future success in life and in school"

BCFI's commitment to the successful re-integration of inmates and to stronger, healthier communities includes the development of Children of Inmates Reading Program (ChIRP). The mandate of ChIRP is to build and enhance a healthier parent/ child relationship, develop literacy and listening skills, increase vocabulary and attention spans for children and promote a presence of a parent and books.

For the past 10 years, Carla Veitch, a children's educator, has been successfully developing and operating a parent/child reading initiative. Twice a month, Carla, along with another volunteer, enter the institution and offer men the opportunity to select a book for their child and then read that book into a recording device. The book and recording are then mailed to the child.

This initiative provides a direct connection for the child with his or her incarcerated parent. In addition to the opportunity of hearing a parent's voice, the reading initiative underscores the value of reading and the importance of books. For a number of the participants, reading aloud to their child has not been part of their pattern of parenting, nor was it modeled for them as part of their early childhood years.

Children are never responsible for their parents' choices. At the same time, they are the hidden victims not only in the justice and correctional system, but also within our larger community.

Book Clubs for Inmates

720 Bathurst St.

Toronto, ON, M5S 2R4

www.BookClubsForInmates.com

Always be nice to your children because they are the ones who will choose your rest home.

- Phyllis Diller

Old age is no place for sissies.

- Bette Davis

Penpal Program for Gay, Queer, Trans Prisoners

The Prisoner Correspondence Project runs a penpal program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, and queer prisoners in Canada, pairing them up with gay and queer and trans people outside of prison for friendship and support.

We also coordinate a resource library of information and resources related to health, sexuality, and prisons - get in touch with us for a list of resources we have, or for details.

If you want to be paired up with a penpal, please send a short description of yourself & interests to:

Prisoner Correspondence Project
c/o QPIRG Concordia
1455 de Maisonneuve W.
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Please indicate French or in English. Veuillez svp nous indiquer anglais ou en français.



Nov. 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR), is an international event commemorating people killed due to anti-trans violence. In the last year, 375 trans or non-binary people have been killed globally.

And it's a Canadian problem too: 74% of trans youth in Canada have been harassed at school, and 37% have experienced physical violence.

Prison Health is Public Health:

The Right to Hepatitis C Prevention, Diagnosis, and Care in Canada's Correctional Settings

About Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C (HCV) is a preventable and curable liver infection. It is the leading cause of liver disease and transplantation, and one of the most burdensome infectious diseases in Canada. HCV spreads through contact with infected blood, but symptoms may be delayed for years, so many people who are infected are unaware. The only way to confirm a chronic HCV infection is through a blood test.

Hep C Elimination is Within Canada's Reach

Progress in treating HCV is one of the great medical breakthroughs of our time, making elimination possible. Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs) are a new generation of medications for treating HCV infection. These new therapies are highly effective, curing HCV infection in more than 95% of people treated with daily pills in as little as 8-12 weeks, with minimal side effects.

Canada's Promise

In May 2016, the first-ever Global Viral Hepatitis Strategy was endorsed by the 194 Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO), with the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. As a Member State, Canada signed onto this strategy and endorsed the targets contained within it. The WHO strategy includes specific targets, and all countries were tasked with developing a National Action Plan to meet these targets. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) responded by publishing the Pan-Canadian framework for action to reduce the health impact of Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBIs) in 2018 and the Government of Canada five-year action plan on STBBIs in 2019.

Why Focus on Correctional Settings?

People who are incarcerated (PWA) are 40 times more likely to be exposed to HCV than Canada's general population. In addition, people who are released from incarceration often face barriers to accessing health care in the community. The delivery of HCV care to people in correctional settings in Canada is essential to HCV elimination.

Current State:

Federal - YES !!!

Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) could be well-positioned to achieve HCV elimination in people incarcerated within Federal Canadian Prisons by 2030, with best practices such as universal HCV screening, universal access to treatment, and some harm reduction services available.

Provincial/ Territorial - NO !!!

The same standard of health care is not available to people in correctional centres as in the community in any province, and significant disparities in HCV care exist across provincial correctional centres. HCV elimination is unlikely to occur in the Canadian provincial/ territorial prison system by 2030.

www.actionhepatitiscanada.ca/prisonhealth

Doing 2yrs less? So, when you get out ...

- When released, get right on welfare or disability.
- Federal health care programs like NIHB & IFH may cover costs.
- Go to a Clinic and get your blood test done so you can get into a Treatment Program at no cost to you.

All Federal prisoners with hep C are now eligible for treatment.

BC & ON Prov prisoners with hep C are now eligible for treatment.

Hep C = 18-30% of prisoners
HIV = 1-5% of prisoners

Do Not Share or Re-Use:
needles, ink, ink holders, rigs,
- anything in contact with blood! -

**BLEACH DOES NOT
KILL HEP C**



K.I.P. Canada - Family Visitation

Kids with Incarcerated Parents (K.I.P.) was founded in 2011 to support the needs of the over 15,000 children in the Greater Toronto Area that have a parent in the criminal justice system.

K.I.P.'s Family Visitation Program provides weekend transportation from Toronto to correctional facilities in Southern Ontario for children and families to visit imprisoned loved ones.

During our trips, K.I.P. provides free snacks and refreshments, offers a variety of games and activities, and plays movies.

Our bus is a place where youth and families have a chance to talk about their experiences of having a loved one inside and receive support from mentors and other riders.

Our Family Visitation Program is free for anyone 18 years old and younger. If you are interested in participating in our program, please call or email K.I.P. to register today.

For more information or to book a seat on the bus please contact Jessica or Derek Reid by email at:

*info.kipcanada@gmail.com
or by phone at: 416-505-5333*

A Child of an Incarcerated Parent

The Reality

- Every year over 150,000 adults are remanded into custody which results in approximately 180,000 innocent children who suffer from the traumatic effect of parental incarceration
- Over 5,000 children are impacted by parental imprisonment in the GTA
- The number of children affected by parental incarceration only increased with the passing of the Crime Bill C-10

The Need

- Despite the growing prevalence of these innocent victims the resources available are minimal
- The cost and lack of accessibility to correctional facilities restrict child-parent visits. Consequently, some children can never visit their incarcerated parents

The Impact

- Children of incarcerated parents grieve the loss of their parent
- These children are four times more likely to be in conflict with the law
- Social stigma of incarceration causes some families to avoid discussing the absence of a parent

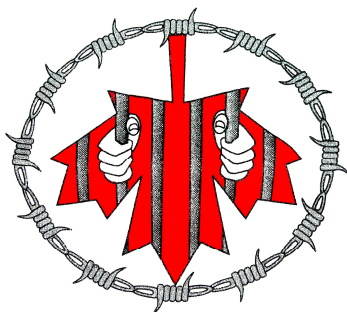
Research suggests that parental incarceration has a detrimental impact on children. These innocent children suffer the traumatic experience of being separated from their parent. Following parental imprisonment, children are faced with a myriad of challenges including:

- feelings of shame, grief, guilt, abandonment, anger
- lowered self-esteem
- economic instability
- social stigma and isolation
- disconnection from parent
- insecurity in familial and peer relationships
- school absenteeism, poor school performance
- difficulty in coping with future stress & trauma
- compromised trust in others including law enforcement

www.kipcanada.org ~ 416-505-5333



**SOLITARY
CONFINEMENT IS
TORTURE**



Women's Prison Network
Fall 2026 - Issue #44

PO Box 39, Stn P
Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6

visit, download, print, donate:

WomensPrisonNetwork.org
info@WomensPrisonNetwork.org

> Mar > Jun > Sep > Dec >

Winter Issue #45 is mailed out:
Dec 1, 2026

Send in your work before:
Nov 1, 2026

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

∞ In Remembrance ∞
- August 10 -

There are more than 200 Unnatural
Prisoner Deaths in Canada.
- Each and Every Year -

We maintain a PJD 'In Remembrance' page
on our website for Prisoners who have died
in Federal and Provincial Prisons, Remands,
Lock-ups and Parole in Canada.

If you wish to have someone remembered
there, send us a note or email and we will
honour your request.

PJD@PrisonFreePress.org