

CLASS ACTION NEWS



ISSUE #43 : FALL 2026

< *Editor's Note* >

It is Fall & Issue #43 of 'Class Action News'.

This zine is by & for the 'Prisoner Class' on Treaty Lands with Canada.

Every Issue provides 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 (CDN) will receive a \$25 donation.

Writings: only short poems, news, stories, ... Items selected are those that fit nicely & allow space for others (½ page = 325 words max).

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

'Class Action News' is published 4 times a year & is free for prisoners in Canada. If you are on the outside or an organization, please do consider a donation. It really, really does help to get this inside!

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Cover: Derrick Chow

< *Donors 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' Treaty ≈

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.

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

Ontario plan to stop mandatory inquests for inmate deaths a mistake

Advocates for prisoners are urging the Ontario government to preserve mandatory coroner's inquests into inmate deaths, saying the hearings foster transparency at a time of increasing jail fatalities.

The government is proposing to scrap the requirement for an inquest into the case of any inmate who dies from non-natural causes. Instead, the coroner's office would conduct an annual review of deaths in correctional facilities.

But such a change would limit institutional accountability while denying families answers, said Alexander McClelland, a criminology professor at Carleton University who tracks in-custody fatalities across Canada.

"The result will be that there will be a series of deaths that happen across the province that end up being a footnote in a report where there's no way to engage or understand how or what the circumstances of the deaths were," he said.

Coroner's inquests are hearings that make findings of fact but do not lay blame. The goal is to help prevent future deaths through non-binding recommendations. In Ontario, the Office of the Chief Coroner, which is part of the Ministry of the Solicitor-General, must hold inquests in certain circumstances, including unexpected jail deaths, fatalities in police custody and deaths of physically restrained psychiatric patients.

The provincial government says annual reviews of correctional fatalities would better identify broader systemic issues and provide more timely recommendations, while avoiding retraumatizing families.

The government proposed the rule change online last December and asked stakeholder groups to provide written feedback within a month. However, after facing criticism for not consulting people whose loved ones had died in jail, the coroner's office said additional meetings were being planned this summer with families and Indigenous representatives.

The coroner's office has a backlog of cases; inquests typically happen five to seven years after a death occurs. In 2024, the office held 47 inquests, 45 of which were mandatory. Coroners also have the option to call inquests at their discretion, including relating to public-safety issues.

The total number of inmates who have died in provincial custody has been increasing over the past 15 years, rising to 41 in 2025 from 16 in 2010, according to the coroner's office. The numbers include natural deaths, drug overdoses and suicides. Most people in provincial custody are awaiting trial.

Eliminating the requirement for inquests is wrong given the unique environment and high death rate in jails, said Howard Sapers, a former federal correctional investigator who is now executive director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

"We're not talking about a small matter here," he said. "We are talking about somebody's death when they are in a total institution that the government is operating, which means that their very life depends on the government doing its job properly."

Critics argue the government's proposal is part of a broader attempt to erode scrutiny of correctional institutions that could lead to more deaths.

"It's just going to limit further transparency in an already kind of crisis situation in the province," said Prof. McClelland, who leads the Tracking (In) Justice project, which includes researchers from several universities and interest groups. He said the government should instead increase funding to clear the inquest backlog and implement existing recommendations.

In 2023, a coroner's expert panel on Ontario jail deaths released a report saying capacity limitations, including overcrowding and frequent lockdowns due to staff shortages, were causing unsafe conditions and must be addressed to prevent further fatalities. The report also urged the government to increase oversight, improve inmate health care and provide more staff training.

Premier Doug Ford's government is planning to spend \$3-billion to build new jails and expand existing facilities over the next decade, said Saddam Khussain, spokesman for Solicitor-General Michael Kerzner. He said the province is also hiring hundreds of new correctional workers.

Yusuf Faqiri, whose brother Soleiman was killed at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ont., in 2016, fears that eliminating mandatory inquests could shield wrongdoing, especially in cases where inmates die at the hands of guards.

"The public has a right to know what's going on," he said. "Our jails are a mess and when somebody dies in these systems, especially with mental-health ... challenges, this is the only mechanism that exists, and to take this mechanism away is going to have a consequential impact for years to come."

A coroner's jury ruled in 2023 that Soleiman's death was a homicide. The 30-year-old was in a severe psychotic crisis when guards beat, pepper-sprayed and shackled him by his wrists and ankles in a segregation cell. A spit hood was placed over his head, and he was left lying stomach-down on the floor. He stopped breathing and was declared dead minutes later.

No jail staff were charged despite Soleiman sustaining at least 50 injuries. Though the jury concluded his death was a homicide, it was not a criminal finding and carried no legal liability.

Still, Mr. Faqiri, whose family spent years attempting to get justice, said the inquest was "monumental" because it revealed how his brother died. "Our path to justice was getting to the truth. That's the difference that the inquest made. ... If we didn't have an inquest, the public would not know what happened to Soleiman Faqiri."

The Ontario government is proposing amending the Coroners Act to require annual reviews for non-natural correctional deaths to improve the system, said Mr. Khussain, spokesman for the Solicitor-General. He said the coroner's office could still hold discretionary inquests when warranted.

"This approach supports a more timely, system-wide review of in-custody deaths," he said in an e-mail. Annual reviews would "help ensure recommendations are delivered more efficiently."

The province received 42 submissions after posting the proposal online, many of which supported "the continuation of inquests into in-custody deaths" while recognizing "the benefits of alternative approaches," said Julia Noonan, manager of program delivery and strategy at the coroner's office.

In 2024, the province adopted annual reviews for accidental construction deaths, which previously triggered mandatory coroner's inquests.

Jill Mahoney

Globe and Mail - Aug 31, 2026

Court orders Alberta prison to take steps to protect inmates from extreme heat

As the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal prepares to hear a separate case about extreme heat in prisons, the Federal Court has directed an Alberta prison to take steps to install air conditioning to protect inmates.

The court said Correctional Service Canada has failed to put an effective solution in place at the Edmonton Institution for Women's secure unit, despite complaints about extreme heat that go back two decades.

"The excessively high temperatures have caused inmates to suffer panic attacks, psychological distress, and sleep deprivation. It is a long-standing problem: CSC has known of design problems with the temperature regulation equipment in Secure since as early as 2012," Justice Meaghan Conroy wrote in the July 16 decision.

One affidavit from an inmate housed in 2018 in a corner cell nicknamed "the oven" said a maintenance worker recorded a temperature of over 40 C in her cell.

Conroy wrote that while Correctional Service Canada "says it routinely monitors temperatures in Secure, remarkably, it keeps no written records of its temperature readings."

The court directed Correctional Service Canada to record temperature readings in the unit and to ask for authorization to install air conditioning.

A spokesperson for Correctional Service Canada said an emailed statement the agency is reviewing the Federal Court decision.

The statement said the correctional service uses various strategies to deal with the summer heat, such as increasing inmate access to "cold water, ice, and cool showers throughout the day" and using spaces that are already air-conditioned, such as gyms, as cool-down zones.

The agency also uses dehumidifiers and "night-time mechanical ventilation to circulate cooler air into institutions," the statement said.

The statement said Correctional Service Canada "ensures that the health of those who are at higher risk of heat-related complications is continuously monitored."

Those vulnerable inmates are the centre of a separate complaint by the John Howard Society of Canada, which the Canadian Human Rights

Commission has referred to the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

In his July 8 referral decision, commissioner Sasha Kiran Cragg-Gore of the Canadian Human Rights Commission wrote that Correctional Service Canada hadn't demonstrated that it accommodates inmates "to the point of undue hardship in their practices and policies to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat."

The decision noted there are other complaints from individual inmates in front of the tribunal.

It said the John Howard Society complaint goes beyond individual cases "and implicates the treatment and dignity of an entire demographic group in federal custody: the unique vulnerability of older and disabled incarcerated prisoners, who cannot self protect from environmental harms."

As temperatures rise due to climate change, the case could set a precedent regarding how federal institutions "adapt operational standards to safeguard the health and dignity of those in custody," Cragg-Gore wrote.

"It would also provide valuable guidance for broader climate adaptation efforts in health care, elder care, and institutional facilities - sectors facing parallel risks," he added.

Catherine Latimer, executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada, said the group is pleased the tribunal will hear the case.

"The effect of excessive heat can be very damaging, particularly for the elderly and for prisoners with underlying health issues. With climate change, this will only get worse unless corrective action is taken," she said in an email.

Anja Karadeglija
The Canadian Press
Jul 20, 2026

Ontario's new cash bail system on hold after judge grants injunction

Ontario's new cash bail system has been put on hold while a judge weighs a challenge to its constitutionality.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Criminal Lawyers' Association were granted an injunction Monday, after their lawyers and those for the province presented their arguments in the case last week.

The new rules kicked in earlier this month and require people accused of a crime and granted bail to provide a cash security deposit within two business days of their release.

Before then, they only had to hand over the money if the release conditions were breached and the court ordered payment.

The two legal organizations argue in their challenge that the rule change infringes on federal jurisdiction and contradicts the Criminal Code, which they say explicitly directs courts to favour a promise to pay over a cash payment.

They argue the switch will effectively make bail harder to obtain, particularly for marginalized people who may not have money for a deposit or be able to find a surety with the required funds.

The province, meanwhile, argues it's an administrative change that does not affect the conditions of release. The challenge, it argues, relies on "speculation" about the impact the new cash bail system will have.

In his ruling Monday, Ontario Superior Court Justice William Chalmers said he is satisfied the legal organizations have established that there may be irreparable harm if an injunction is not granted while he decides on the case.

"The effect of the impugned legislation may result in persons who would have otherwise been released, having their release denied or delayed because of the difficulty ... in securing an able and willing surety," he wrote.

"I am also satisfied that there is no harm to the province if the injunction is granted," he continued. "The status quo that has been in place for over 50 years will be maintained for the limited period before my ruling on the constitutionality of the legislation is released."

The groups welcomed the ruling in a statement. A spokesperson for Attorney General Doug Downey said the provincial government will never apologize for its efforts to reform the bail system.

"We are using every tool available to make bail more consequential to protect victims and communities," Julia Facca said in an email. "As this matter is before the court, we have no further comment."

Paola Loriggio
The Canadian Press
Aug 31, 2026

Trans inmate sues federal government.
Guard at Ontario prison used slurs, tried to force strip-search by man, she claims

A transgender woman is suing the federal government for \$325,000 over allegations a correctional officer used transphobic language while insisting she be strip-searched by a man.

The incident occurred at Beaver Creek Institution in Gravenhurst early on the morning of Nov. 19, 2025, when inmate Sydnee Lines, 37, was returning from an emergency hospital visit, according to a statement of claim filed in Ontario Superior Court. Lines was serving a sentence for criminal harassment, uttering threats and failure to comply with probation.

According to what's known in the federal prison system as an individualized protocol, Lines was supposed to be only strip-searched by female employees, and she was to be referred to using she/her pronouns.

But the statement of claim alleges Lines was told by an unidentified male correctional officer that a female officer would search her from the waist up, and a male officer would search from the waist down. She refused to comply, citing her individualized protocol.

The statement of claim alleges that the correctional officer said - within earshot of other officers and inmates — words to the effect of “Do you still have a penis in your pants?” as well as “Until you have a vagina, you are still a man.”

The officer also allegedly referred to Lines by a transphobic slur and as a “thing.”

After almost half an hour, the officer conceded the search had to be done by female staff - “The search occurred without incident and revealed nothing,” says the statement of claim.

“By making inappropriate and unwanted comments about her genitalia and attempting to force her to submit to a strip search conducted by a man, the male CO imposed serious and profound psychological suffering upon her,” says the statement of claim.

Lines also filed an internal grievance immediately after the incident, which was upheld by a Correctional Service Canada analyst, Craig James, who said he wanted to “sincerely apologize” for what happened.

“This incident does not reflect the standards of respect and dignity that we are committed to

upholding for all individuals in our care,” James wrote.

He said he would ensure that training is given to staff to ensure they fully understand policies related to gender identity and expression.

Lines’ lawyer, Jeffrey Hartman, said one of the main reasons for filing the lawsuit is to help ensure that the transphobia alleged to have occurred at Beaver Creek doesn’t happen in any other prison or elsewhere.

“My client wants to send a clear message that trans people are human beings who are deserving of respect and dignity and who are entitled to be themselves,” Hartman said.

It’s unclear why Lines was being housed at Beaver Creek, a prison for men.

Correctional Service Canada declined to comment on the lawsuit as it’s before the courts, but said it “takes seriously its obligations to provide safe, secure, and humane treatment while assisting offenders to become law-abiding citizens.”

Jacques Gallant
The Star
Sep 15, 2027

Common Questions:

Why is this incident significant?

It raises concerns about the treatment of transgender individuals in the prison system and highlights the need for better training and adherence to human rights protocols.

What are my rights if I face similar discrimination?

Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, you have the right to be free from discrimination based on gender identity. Legal action and resources are available to address violations.

How can I take action against discrimination in a correctional facility?

File an internal grievance, consult with human rights organizations, and consider seeking legal advice to understand and assert your rights.

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!)

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!

Right to Read? HELL NO!

There are at least 31 CSC librarians employed across 38 unique federal prison libraries who hold vital institutional knowledge - knowledge of security protocols, inmate learning needs, culturally appropriate collections, and trauma-informed service - that cannot simply be "absorbed" or replaced without consequence.

They estimated cutting the positions would save the department around \$2.4 million, and said 18 librarians had already received letters in January indicating their employment could be affected.

The statement adds that, starting on April 1, the last librarian positions would be gradually eliminated as part of plans that were still being finalized.

Halloween Horrorscopes

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19) - Storm clouds hang over you. A good night to stay indoors. Lightning never strikes twice, but because of that steel-plate in your head, I wouldn't be so sure.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May20) - Because of Aries moon, your shopping vortex is at it's lowest. No Bull! Stay out of china shops, if you break it we mark it 'SOLD'!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - You are at a very low cycle. Keep your clothes loose and hair messy. Be exceptionally cautious of convicts bearing gifts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Choke-cough-cough, burp, snuffle, fart, cough-cough. Need another hint? 'BUTT OUT'!

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) - Your sign is in perfect celestial harmony. Smiling and just feeling good about yourself could get you pulled over for a urine sample. Drink lots of water.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22) - The swirling stars of Chaos write your destiny, and like Chaos your future is explosive. Keep your head out of any glue-bags. Avoid flammable substances.

LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22) - Because All Hallows Eve falls within October, most people won't know the mask you are wearing is really your face. Staying inside reduces your chances of getting arrested for wearing a disguise in the commission of an offence.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21) - Paranoia of others is justified! Those sidelong glances, mumbled conversations, they're all against you! Everyone is plotting and scheming to undermine and do away with you! Beware!!!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21) - A long arduous road lies before you. The path is full of pitfalls and traps but if you are careful you could avoid them. Cancel any drug deals for this month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19) - Does the word 'miserable' mean anything to you? No? Well look it up and don't be surprised if you find a picture of yourself staring back at you.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18) - Because of shifting stars, your cycle is off balance. Keep in mind (if you have one left) the first sign of insanity, is when you start talking to yourself. The second sign is when you start answering yourself.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20) - You should look into some type of stress management program, because after your parole hearing you're going to need a few hours in the ole rubber-room.

By Bob Sango

Stony Mountain Innovator - Fall 1995

Inspired by Mission Messenger

Words Inside:

X	H	U	D	K	G	Q	Q	H	B	M	C	B	Y	C
M	H	S	K	R	T	O	K	G	Q	Y	S	V	T	L
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THEBUCKET
THEHOLE
TOOL
TURNKEY

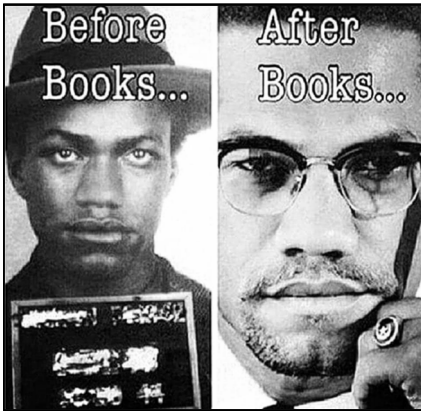
Book Clubs for Inmates (BCFI)

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



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

After one look at this planet any visitor from outer space would say:

'I want to see the manager'.

- William S. Burroughs

Trans+ People in Canadian Prisons Project

In 2017, "gender identity or expression" was added to the Canadian Human Rights Act as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

There are two ways for people to get involved in this research:

- (1) talk to us in a 1-hour private, confidential interview about their thoughts and experiences,
- (2) answer similar questions in writing using the mail.

We are hoping to connect with:

- (1) Current Trans+ prisoners in Canadian federal prisons, AND
- (2) Current cisgender (non-Trans+) prisoners who have ever lived in a Canadian federal correctional institution with Trans+ prisoners.

If you chose to participate, no guards or administrators will be present or observing in any way. Each institution will have a CSC Staff person who can help arrange participation and has promised to keep your involvement confidential. We will use a pseudonym (fake name) when quoting people or mentioning the stories that are shared with us.

This project is being conducted by the University of Victoria with funding from the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC).

If people have questions, or would like to volunteer to be interviewed, or participate by mail, they can contact us at 1-800-516-3083 (on the common access list) or at:

Trans+ Prison Project
Chair in Transgender Studies, UVic
PO Box 3050 STN CSC
Victoria BC V8W 3P5



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 correctional institutions 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 on Social Assistance asap.
- Federal health care programs like NIHB & IFH may cover costs.
- Go to a Health 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% in prison
HIV = 1-5% in prison

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

BLEACH DOES NOT KILL HEP C

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

Kingston - 613-881-0050

London - 519-690-0836

Milton - 416-775-7983

Niagara - 905-227-5066

Ottawa - 613-768-9951

PRISON RADIO

- Guelph - CFRU 93.3 FM

Prison Radio - Thurs 10-11 am

Call-in 519-837-2378

- Halifax - CKDU 88.1 FM

Black Power Hour - Wed 9 pm

- Kingston - CFRC 101.9 FM

CPR: Prison Radio - Wed 7-8 pm

- Montreal - CKUT 90.3 FM

PRS - 2nd Thurs 5-6 pm & 4th Fri 11-noon

- Vancouver - CFRO 100.5 FM

Stark Raven - 1st Mon 7-8 pm

CPR: This program features content produced by CFRC volunteers and by other campus and community radio broadcasters, including CKUT Montreal's Prison Radio & 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.

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

2025 dates: Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 14, Jun 11, Jul 9, Aug 6, Sep 3, Oct 1, Oct 29, Nov 26, Dec 24.

**Write: CPR c/o CFRC, Lwr Carruthers Hall,
Queen's University,
Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6**

Email: CFRCprisonradio@riseup.net

Call: 613-917-1390 to record a message or music request to be broadcast on-air.

Free Jail Hotline for MCC, OCI, TEDC, TSDC & VCW

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:

**Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat
9-11 am & 2-4 pm**

☎ 416-775-9239 ☎

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

Free Jail Hotline for EMDC

**Monday to Saturday
9-11 am & 2-4 pm**

☎ 519-642-9289 ☎

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, 369 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.

☞ Respect ☞

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

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).

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

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 in Canada
- Over 5000 children are impacted by parental imprisonment in the GTA
- The number of children affected by parental incarceration only increases 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



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.

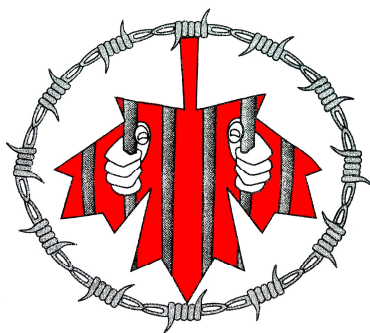
For more information or to book a seat on the bus please contact Jessica or Derek Reid by email at:

info.kipcanada@gmail.com

or by phone at: 416-505-5333



SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS TORTURE



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Class Action News
PO Box 39, Stn P
Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6

download, print, contact:
www.ClassActionNews.org

> Jan > Apr > Jul > Oct >

Next Issue: #44 – Winter 2026/27

Deadline: Dec 1, 2026
Mail-out: Jan 1, 2027

If you don't like the news ...

... make some of your own !!!

Whatcha got in there that needs gettin' out?

... Hmm ... ?

Art, Poems, Stories, News, Whatever !

