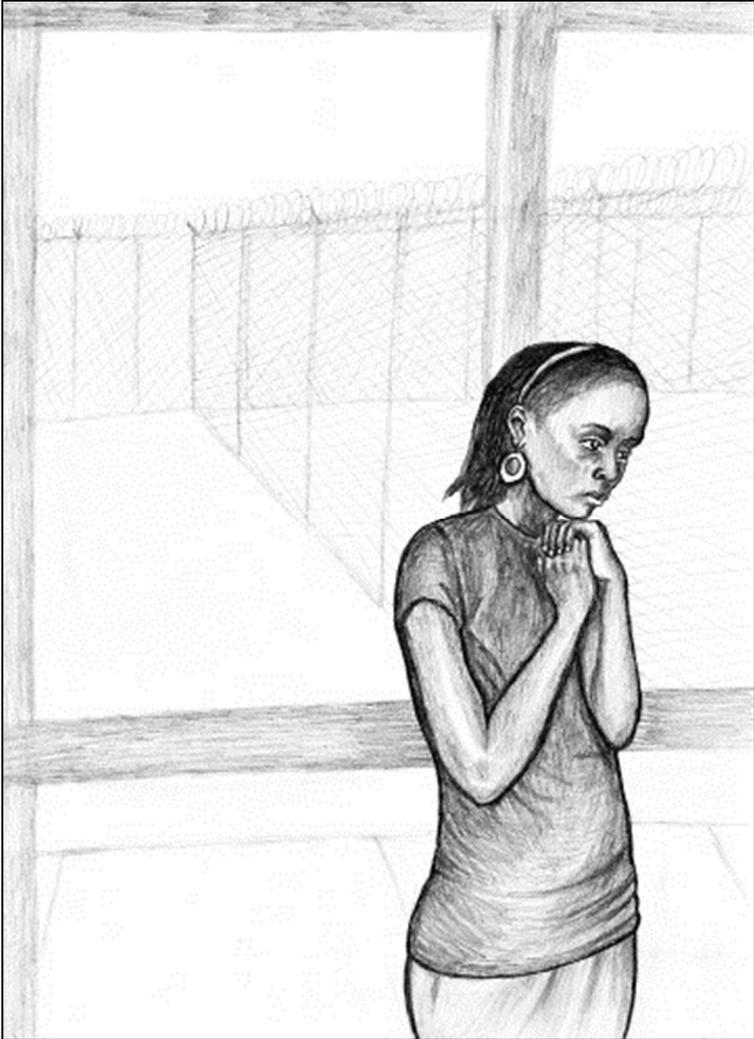


WOMENS PRISON NETWORK



ISSUE #10 - SPRING 2018

Editor's Note:

Welcome to Issue #10 of Women's Prison Network, a magazine by and for women, trans and youth prisoners in Canada.

This is a safe space to share art, poetry, news, thoughts, conversation, connections ...

We send copies into all Women & Youth prisons in Canada.

Send your art, poems, short stories, comments, articles, etc, to Women's Prison Network if you would like to be a part of the next Issue. – Thanks!

Women's Prison Network
PO Box 39, Stn P
Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6

Contents:

News 3-7, 10-12
 Poems 8,9,13
 Pen pals..... 13
 Resources..... 13-16

Cover Artwork:

Billy Dee

Artists:

Cover Artists will receive a \$25.00 donation. Thank you so much for your work! Let us know how & where you would like the donation sent to & where you would like your art returned to. Please note: this magazine is for women, trans and youth from all cultures, so please do not send religious imagery. Thank you for your art!

Writers:

One column is only 300 words, so do choose your words carefully. It must be short & to the point. Poems that are tight & give space for others are the first in. Thank you for your words!

Funding for this Issue:

~ Huge thanks to ~
Groundswell Community Justice Trust Fund!

'Women's Prison Network' is produced 4 times per year. It is sent out for free to Women's Prisons in Canada.

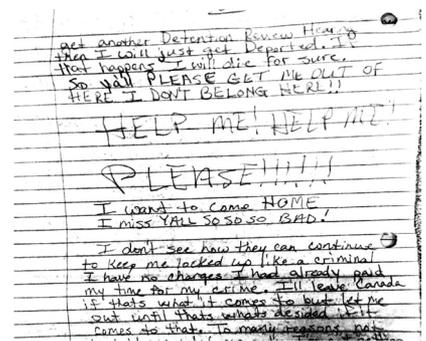
If you are on the outside or part of an organization, please consider a donation!!!

Editor: aliyah
 Publication: Women's Prison Network
 Publisher: PrisonFreePress.org
 PO Box 39, Stn P
 Toronto, ON, M5S 2S6

Circulation: 350+
 Recirculation: ????

info@WomensPrisonNetwork.org

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NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

Border services must be more transparent and accountable

Yet another immigration detainee has died in unclear circumstances. It must stop.

On Oct. 30, Canada Border Services Agency issued a brief news release. A 50-year-old woman had died in a maximum-security jail in Milton.

She might as well have been “disappeared” in a dictatorship for all the detail the agency provided. As the Star’s Brendan Kennedy reported, the CBSA would not disclose the woman’s identity, country of origin or her cause of death.

We now know the woman was Teresa Michelle Gratton, a permanent resident of Canada from the United States, a mother of three sons and wife to Herb Gratton, her partner of 32 years.

We also know she was being held indefinitely in a maximum-security prison, based on the decision of one border services officer, though she did not pose a danger to anyone.

The circumstances of her imprisonment and death are unconscionable on a number of levels.

First, it is arguable that she should not have even been held at all in an immigration detention centre, never mind a maximum security jail with dangerous offenders.

Last year, in fact, Public Security Minister Ralph Goodale argued that detention in the immigration system should be a “last resort.” At that time he set aside \$5 million to be spent on “alternatives,” such as the use of performance bonds, cash deposits or electronic reporting systems.

Second, we know Gratton was the 10th person to die in immigration detention in the last five years and at least the 16th since 2000. Yet because there is no civilian oversight of the CBSA, which would bring transparency through public reporting, we can’t know whether a person should have been detained in the first place, never mind hold anyone responsible for the circumstances of her death.

The CBSA will finally get civilian oversight under provisions of Bill C-59, when that proposed legislation finally makes its way through Parliament.

But in the meantime there is nothing to stop the government from ordering the agency to find alternatives to detention for anyone other than

the most extreme flight risks, those that are a danger to the public or those already in jail for a crime.

At the same time, the agency should be required to release details when someone dies in custody, just as corrections officials do. Sadly, at this point Herb Gratton says he still does not know what happened. “I can’t really grieve my wife.”

Third, Teresa Gratton was deemed eligible for deportation because she had served nine months under house arrest for multiple counts of fraud under \$5,000. Unbelievably, the border officer equated house arrest with a “term of imprisonment,” making her eligible for deportation.

As if to underscore the absurdity of that decision, 19 days after Gratton was detained the Supreme Court of Canada ruled it is unreasonable for immigration officials to equate conditional sentences, such as house arrest, with jail sentences.

Goodale has done much to try to fix the immigration detention system since the Trudeau government was elected. For example, in the last fiscal year Canada detained more than 6,200 people, down dramatically from the 10,088 detained in 2013-14 under the Harper government.

As well, Goodale invested \$138 million last year “to transform” the system, including replacing two aging immigration detention centres and improving mental and medical health services for those being held.

Still, there is much more he could do to ensure that no one is detained unnecessarily again, or “disappeared” after dying in a jail.

The system must be made more accountable and transparent. Much can be done to achieve that even before a civilian watchdog is put in place to oversee the border services agency. It’s up to Goodale to make it happen without delay.

Editorial Board
Toronto Star
Dec 18, 2017

People will stop dying when the Canadian government stops leaving them there to die.

- Nisha Toomey
(End Immigration Detention Network)

Broken system: Why is a quarter of Canada's prison population Indigenous?

In the wake of the acquittal of Gerald Stanley in the death of Colten Boushie, there have been loud calls for reform to address Canada's blatant systemic racism in the criminal justice system.

Boushie, 22, died after being shot by Stanley in the back of the head as he sat in an SUV on a farm near Biggar, Sask.

The Canadian justice system works against Indigenous people at every level, from police checks and arrests to bail denial and detention, sentencing miscarriages and disparities and high incarceration rates.

These trends are also well-documented in countries like the United States, Australia and New Zealand. It is clear that the problem lies in our justice systems.

Around the time that Canada started receding its formal "Indian assimilation" policies in the 1950s, including the end of the residential school requirement, penitentiary and child welfare systems started to quietly assume a new role in the lives of Indigenous people.

In fact, prior to the 1960s, Indigenous people only represented one to two per cent of the federal prison population. The rates have consistently increased every year since.

The Office of the Correctional Investigator reports the incarceration rate of Indigenous people is now at 26.4 per cent of the federal prison population, while they comprise only four per cent of the Canadian population. Incidentally, the Canadian crime rate has fallen in the last 20 years.

Placed in segregation

Not only are Indigenous people more likely to be imprisoned, but they are also more often subjected to some of the most restrictive levels of punishment, including segregation, forced interventions, higher security classifications, involuntary transfers, physical restraints and self-harm.

Kinew James died of a heart attack after the emergency call button in her cell was routinely ignored at the Saskatoon Regional Psychiatric Centre.

Eddie Snowshoe committed suicide after 162 days in solitary confinement at the Edmonton maximum security institution.

Renee Acoby accumulated an additional 21 years of charges in prison, spent more than half of her time in segregation, and was eventually given a dangerous offender designation for a series of prison hostage-takings. She is now effectively behind bars for life.

Addressing these deeply problematic prison realities is currently at the forefront of the government of Canada's criminal justice review, including two House of Commons studies and one by a Senate committee.

In considering remedies, two important issues are at play.

Imprisoned more often

First, Indigenous people are more often criminalized and imprisoned for acts that are linked to poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities, lifestyles of substance use, mental health concerns and histories of sexual abuse, violence and trauma — in other words, colonialism.

Second, prisons are characterized by authoritarianism, power imbalances, restriction of movement and activities, isolation, lack of freedom of association and enforcement of sometimes arbitrary and trivial demands. Prison environments often reflect and even perpetuate the very trauma and violence experienced by Indigenous people.

The federal government would do well to consider community options.

According to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, it costs upwards of \$343,810 to incarcerate one woman for a year and \$223,687 to incarcerate a man. The community placement option, on the other hand, is priced at \$85,653 per year per person, and parole costs as little as \$39,084.

There are already existing remedies in the Correctional and Conditional Release Act, Sections 81 and 84, that allow for agreements in the community where Indigenous and non-Indigenous prisoners can serve their sentence and parole in a supported way.

If we want to alleviate the conditions that foster conflict and harm in the first place, we also need to ensure that basic national standards and human rights are being met for Indigenous people.

The private members' Bill C-262, which outlines the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, just passed its second reading.

Approving this bill would ensure some of the most basic rights for Indigenous communities, including the provision of clean water, electricity, employment, education and adequate social and health services.

In its calls to action, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada has recommended that the federal, provincial and territorial governments make a commitment to eliminate the over-representation of Indigenous people in custody over the next decade.

If the federal government takes up this call, prisons would no longer be part of the solution. As noted by Romeo Saganash, NDP's critic for Intergovernmental Indigenous Affairs, "there will be no reconciliation without justice."

Vicki Chartrand
The Conversation
Feb 18, 2018

Transgender inmates in federal prison to be housed according to gender identity

The federal prison system is changing the way it treats transgender inmates, who will now be placed in a men's or women's facility based on how they self-identify.

Correctional staff must also address transgender inmates by their preferred name and pronoun and offenders will be allowed to shop for both men's or women's items from the correctional service's approved catalogue, regardless of their anatomy or the gender on their identification documents.

These changes come after the federal government added "gender identity and expression" to the list of prohibited grounds for discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act last June.

"We are overjoyed that (Correctional Service Canada) is making so many positive changes that recognize the human rights of trans people in the correctional system," said Jennifer Metcalfe, executive director of Prisoners' Legal Services.

"These changes will improve the safety and dignity of transgender federal offenders in Canada, affecting every aspect of their daily lives."

Helen Kennedy, executive director of advocacy group Egale Canada, called the reforms a step in

the right direction but warned that correctional staff are not properly equipped to accommodate transgender prisoners.

"Unless it's implemented with the training that's required for all of those frontline workers, then we could potentially be putting people in harm's way," she said.

Jeremy Dias of the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity applauded the government for following through on its earlier commitments but he said he too would like to see more done to keep transgender prisoners safe.

"This is only halfway there," he said. "In 2018, we have to start thinking of trans and non-binary specific correctional facilities."

While more needs to be done, it is worth celebrating the progress made in advocating for the rights of transgender people in general in recent history, Dias said.

"There was a time not so long ago where we didn't think that these sorts of policies and initiatives were even possible."

A joint statement from Prisoners' Legal Services, the Correctional Service of Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Commission said the reforms are the result of years of collaboration.

The head of the human rights commission, Marie-Claude Landry, said the reforms are about respect and human dignity, which every person is entitled to, including those in the prison system.

The changes also emphasize the privacy and confidentiality of an inmate's gender identity, which will be shared only if relevant and only with those directly involved in a prisoner's care.

Individualized protocols will also be offered to transgender inmates, which include accommodations when accessing shower and toilet facilities and the choice of male or female officers to conduct frisk and strip searches, urine testing and camera surveillance.

CSC commissioner Don Head said the service is committed to building a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone, including transgender staff, offenders, volunteers and visitors.

Geordon Omand
The Canadian Press
Jan 31, 2018

Ontario agrees to end solitary confinement for mentally ill inmates

Inmates with mental health disabilities will no longer be placed in solitary confinement barring exceptional circumstances under an agreement announced Thursday between the Ontario government and the province's human rights commission. The consent order issued by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario mandates the province end the use of segregation for the mentally disabled across its 26 correctional facilities.

"The order confirms that the government must take immediate action to end the segregation of people with mental health disabilities," Renu Mandhane, chief commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, said in a statement. "It also includes measures that will keep the spotlight on corrections for years to come."

The order - which comes amid two separate court challenges against the overuse of segregation at the federal level - arose from an application filed in 2012 by a woman who said she was placed in long-term segregation at the Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre because of her mental-health disabilities and gender.

The commission intervened in the case and the parties reached a settlement in 2013 that should have resulted in major reforms to Ontario's use of segregation. However, the commission maintained last fall that the province had breached the settlement.

"The order resolves the contravention application and sets out concrete steps that Ontario must take to make sure people with mental health disabilities are kept out of segregation," the commission said. "These include accurately identifying prisoners with mental health disabilities, as well as tracking and monitoring segregation use and its impact on health."

Among other things, the order calls on the province to define "segregation" to cover cases in which inmates are isolated in their cells for 22 or more hours a day - except in cases of lockdowns. Key to the process is the requirement to properly identify inmates with mental-health disabilities - including those at risk of self-harm or suicide - and issue appropriate alerts verified by professionals. Such an alert would act as an indicator that "alternatives to segregation must be considered to the point of undue hardship,"

the order states. At the legislature, Corrections Minister Marie-France Lalonde - a former social worker - said she was pleased with the settlement and the government's goal was to effect "real change." At the same time, she said she didn't have "all the answers" but hiring more staff and enhanced programming are parts of the solution.

"We have to look at the whole concept of segregation. We've seen this from a federal perspective, we've seen this (in Ontario)," Lalonde said. "(But) we have to stand our own feet on this one."

What remains to be seen is exactly how the mentally ill will be housed in correctional facilities but better health care is critical, she said.

A "baseline" study is due within weeks in which the province will review the files of all mentally ill inmates in segregation to determine how long they've been there and what kind of care they have received, treatment plans, and what alternatives to solitary were considered before the placements. The province has also agreed to report within 18 months how best to serve mentally ill female inmates. It will also ensure adequate psychiatric care is available to all prisoners. The order also requires the government to collect and release data on segregation use, consult an independent expert to implement its terms, and to appoint an independent reviewer to monitor compliance.

"We call on the government to introduce legislation that places human rights at the centre of provincial corrections and addresses the needs of Indigenous and black prisoners, who remain overrepresented in prisons and jails," Mandhane said.

Colin Perkel
The Canadian Press
Jan 18, 2018

What we all need to do is find the wellspring that keeps us going, that gives us the strength and patience to keep up this struggle for a long time.

- Winona Laduke

Your brain has a mind of its own.

- Kathryn Barrett

Tattoo programs in Canada's prisons would help curb hepatitis, HIV: Memo

OTTAWA - Setting up tattoo parlours and needle-exchange programs in penitentiaries would help reduce the spread of hepatitis C, the federal prison service has told the Trudeau government.

A Correctional Service memo obtained under the Access to Information Act advises Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale the proposals "warrant consideration" to round out existing and planned measures to fight hepatitis and HIV in prison.

Prison tattooing and needle-exchange programs for drug users have generated intense controversy over the years and the March 2017 memo says detailed research should be carried out before embarking on a syringe needle program, in particular, "to avoid unintended and negative consequences for inmates."

In response to questions, the prison service and Goodale's office said Monday they were exploring options "to better prevent, control and manage infectious diseases" but did not provide details about possible tattoo or needle programs.

The current approach to prevent and control blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections includes screening, testing, education, substance-abuse programs and treatment.

The prevalence of HIV among federal inmates decreased to 1.19 per cent in 2014 from just over two per cent in 2007, according to the memo. But it stood at six times that of the general Canadian population.

Similarly, the proportion of inmates with the hepatitis C virus fell to 18.2 per cent in 2014 from 31.6 per cent in 2007. Yet the incidence was still about 23 times that of the general population.

Federal prison ombudsman Ivan Zinger recently called on the Correctional Service to bring back its safe tattooing program.

His annual report said tattooing in prison frequently involves sharing and reusing dirty homemade equipment - linked to higher rates of hepatitis C and HIV among inmates - and there is often no safe means of disposing of used tattoo needles.

In 2005, the prison service began a pilot program involving tattoo rooms in six federal institutions, but two years later, the Conservative government of the day ended it.

The memo to Goodale says an internal evaluation of the pilot indicated that it increased awareness about disease prevention and had the potential to reduce exposure to health risks. In addition, neither inmates, staff, nor volunteers reported health and safety concerns with the program.

"In fact, the evaluation indicated that the majority of staff believed the initiative made the institution safer for both staff and inmates."

Safer tattooing could reduce hepatitis C virus transmission within federal prisons by 17 per cent a year, the memo says.

The Correctional Service has tried to keep illicit drugs from entering prisons, but acknowledges that some still make their way into penitentiaries. Although the prison service has made bleach available, it has drawn the line at offering clean needles.

A program to provide clean drug-injection needles to prisoners could reduce the spread of hepatitis C by 18 per cent a year, the memo says.

In the case of both safer tattooing and needle programs, it wasn't possible to gauge the potential effect on HIV prevalence or spread among prisoners due to the existing low HIV rates.

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network has long argued for needle-exchange programs in Canadian prisons. However, Correctional Service officials have raised concerns about syringe needles being used as weapons.

The memo to Goodale recommends weighing the effect a needle program might have for workplace safety regimes, and it suggests more research be done on the effectiveness of such an initiative from both clinical and cost standpoints.

Jim Bronskill
The Canadian Press
Feb 19 2018

If our history has taught us anything, it is that action for change directed against the external conditions of our oppressions is not enough.

- Audre Lorde

Civil disobedience becomes a sacred duty when the state becomes lawless or corrupt.

- Mahatma Gandhi

POEMSP0EMSP0EMSP0EMSP0EMSP0EMSP0

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Mirrors

I feel so trapped behind these walls
 Like they are caving in on me
 All of a sudden they turn into mirrors
 All I can see is my own reflection
 Staring back at me
 It fills me with a raging anguish
 Because I hate that bitch and
 She won't stop staring back at me
 These mirrors won't stop caving in on me
 Finally I start to scream
 The glass shatters all around me
 All I see is red and
 I'm not sure if it is blood
 Or the rage that lays so deeply inside of me
 I can now see how to reshape my own destiny,
 Inside of me!
 I can change the things I hate
 So when I look in the mirror
 I can say I love this woman
 Who stares back at me

- Barbara Koleszar

I'm Not Crazy, I'm Amazing!

Some people call me crazy, and state,
 "You need help"
 But why?
 Nona is not crazy anymore
 I was crazy when I let people use me, abuse me,
 disrespect me & take from me without asking
 me
 Now that was crazy
 But now that I fight to defend myself,
 Get mad when one tries to hurt me
 And speak when someone disrespects me
 This is not crazy
 This is Nona taking charge with no regard
 So when you call me crazy it's fine with me,
 But it's a problem when you say I need help
 Because there's no cure for the technique I use
 It's not crazy, it's amazing

- Wenona Thompson

Our Cellblock

You walk into our black & white range
 Looking at us all as if we were strange
 The mirror in your cell, known as your friend
 Will be the one & only gal to the bitter end
 The solid ones we will keep
 As the others we will bounce
 Until solidness is what we seek
 And trust is what we like to keep
 CO's watch us day & night
 Keeping us in line so we don't fight
 Fight or flight? I'll chose to fight
 Cuz respect is a right & solidness is all it takes
 Life in here can be real or fake
 It's your choice to make
 The respect you earn will be your fate

- Vickie St-Jean

Hell

Sitting in my cell
 Realizing this hell
 Nowhere to go
 Nowhere to hide
 Sometimes I wish
 God would just let me lay
 Down and die
 But this is my life
 I made this choice
 So I'll sit here and dwell
 In my own little hell
 Sometimes I handle it
 But not very well
 At times I feel like I'll never
 Make it out of this hell!

- Sarah Libby

One of the things my parents taught me, and
 I'll always be grateful for the gift, is to not
 ever let anybody else define me.

- Wilma Mankiller

It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep
 all your life.

- Sister Elizabeth Kenny

POEMSP OEMSPOEMSPOEMSPOEMSPOEMSPO

Will She Ever Know My Name?

*Tiny little hands gripping my own,
Promises made only to be broken.
Who do I blame? Myself, of course.
Will she ever know my name?*

*Wanting to change my past,
Uncertain about my future.
Mistake made, lessons learned...life.
Will she ever know my name?*

*Phone calls once a month.
The tiny little voice so many miles away.
Longing to hold her in my arms.
Will she ever know my name?*

*Silent tears flow down my face.
No one can see them they're hiding.
Hiding themselves inside my soul.
She still doesn't know my name,
Will she ever know?*

- Kebby Warner

Another Day I2

*Another day I'm stronger...
Than I ever imagined I'd be.
Another day I'll have to wait a little longer...
Until the day that I'm free.
Another day I'm becoming numb...
To the mental beatings that I take,
Another day new trials come...
That are difficult to shake.
Another day I force myself to stand...
When days before I'd lay,
Another day I feel like I'm in quicksand...
But I plan for the future (freedom) anyway.
Another day I rise to the occasion...
But they'll do their best to make me fall,
Another day there's no positive persuasion...
To do anything at all.
Another day it's common sense...
To trust no one's advice but my own,
Another day I'm convinced...
That no matter what - I'm going home!*

- Tammica L. Summer

EMSPOEMSPOEMSPOEMSPOEMSPOEMSPOE

My Beautiful Child

*I can't be there
Because of choices I made
I knew they would hurt you
But couldn't stop
Because of my addiction
The only thing I can ask you
Is to please learn from my mistakes
Make the right choices
And surround yourself
With caring, positive people
I'm not mad at you
I'm mad at myself
I will always love you
My beautiful child*

- Laura Martinez

Where I'm From

*I am from the country
From the farm and the fields*

*I am from running bare foot in the grass
Green, cool, and wet tickling my feet*

*I am from getting up at dawn
Going to bed at dusk*

*I am from a broken home
To a new home with a loving family*

*I am from drag cars on quarter-mile track
The smell of grease, and rubber burning*

*I am from working hard every day
To a loving mom of 5
Watching them laugh and play*

*I am from the strong women in my past
That made me the who I am today
And gave me the strength to go on every day*

*I am from Irish, Indian Heritage
I am proud of what I am*

- Heidi Lee Emmerton-Leathers

NEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWSNEWS

Indefinite solitary confinement in Canadian prisons ruled unconstitutional by B.C. court

A B.C. Supreme Court judge has ruled that the practice of prolonged and indefinite solitary confinement in Canadian prisons is unconstitutional.

In a lengthy ruling released Wednesday, Justice Peter Leask found that the laws surrounding what is known as administrative segregation in prison discriminate against Aboriginal and mentally ill inmates.

He said the existing rules create a situation in which a warden becomes judge and jury in terms of ordering extended periods of solitary confinement.

"I find as a fact that administrative segregation ... is a form of solitary confinement that places all Canadian inmates subject to it at significant risk of serious psychological harm, including mental pain and suffering, and increased incidence of self-harm and suicide," Leask wrote.

'Stunning decision'

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) and the John Howard Society of Canada (JHSC) brought the challenge against the federal government, arguing that rules regarding administrative segregation, more commonly known as solitary confinement, are inhuman and unconstitutional.

Leask said he was prepared to suspend his ruling for 12 months in order to give the government time to craft an appropriate legislative response to his concerns.

"This is the most significant prison law decision from a trial court in Canadian history," said Jay Aubrey, a staff lawyer with the BCCLA.

"It is a stunning decision that is grounded in four decades of history, and the best social science and medical evidence on the impact on inmates health of solitary confinement, and alternatives to solitary confinement."

The BCCLA and other intervenors argued that the sections of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act governing the practice of administrative segregation "permit indeterminate and prolonged solitary confinement" which has "significant adverse effects on the physical, psychological and social health of inmates."

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said in a statement the government will review the B.C. judgment along with an Ontario ruling which found administrative segregation for longer than five days is unconstitutional.

Goodale said the government has new legislation before Parliament to impose time limits and independent oversight on solitary confinement. He also said Ottawa is improving conditions of confinement and investing nearly \$60 million toward the treatment of mental illness.

"We will identify any further and better ideas that need to be incorporated in our reform package," Goodale said. "But we have been proactive from the beginning and our work is already well advanced."

Litany of tragic cases

In his ruling, Leask cited many of the tragic cases which brought the issue of solitary confinement to the forefront in recent years, including that of Ashley Smith, a 19-year-old who died in a segregated prison cell in Kitchener, Ont., in 2007. A coroner's jury ruled Smith's self-inflicted choking death was a homicide.

The judge also cites the death of Edward Snowshoe, a 22-year-old who took his own life at the Edmonton Institution in August 2010 after spending more than five months in segregation. A public inquiry concluded he had "fallen through the cracks" and that corrections officials were unaware he had attempted suicide numerous times at a previous facility and that he had been in segregation as long as he had.

"On the evidence before this court, the most serious deficiency in dealing with administrative segregation is the inadequacy of the government's processes for dealing with the mentally ill," Leask wrote.

"I am satisfied the law ... fails to respond to the actual capacities and needs of mentally ill inmates and instead imposes burdens in a manner that has the effect of reinforcing, perpetuating or exacerbating their disadvantage." Leask also called on the correctional service to make a concerted effort to improve programs for Aboriginal inmates, who are over-represented in segregation.

"Beyond the risk of psychological harm inherent in the segregation experience itself, the fact that Aboriginal inmates are placed in segregation more often, with limited access to programming, impacts their ability to transfer to lower security

institutions and to obtain conditional release, as they may not have been able to carry out their correctional plan and may not be perceived as significantly rehabilitated as a result," Leask wrote.

'Meaningful human contact'

The Corrections and Conditional Release Act provides for two types of segregation: disciplinary and administrative. Disciplinary segregation is limited to 30 days, whereas the length of administrative segregation is effectively left to the discretion of the warden.

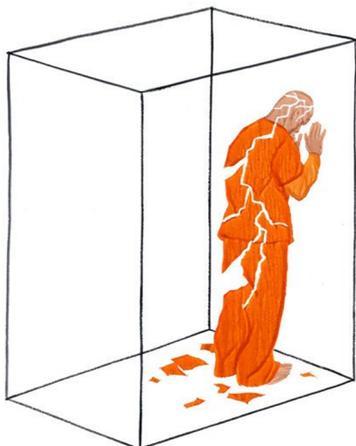
The Attorney General of Canada argued that administrative segregation as practised in federal prisons is not solitary confinement, since inmates have "daily opportunity for meaningful human contact."

They also claimed that administrative segregation is a necessary tool and that the length of placements is not indeterminate but calculated by the time needed to eliminate safety or security issues.

The Attorney General asked for the 12 month suspension in the event that Leask ruled against them, arguing that the break would give the legislature "sufficient time to craft an appropriate legislative response."

Leask agreed, saying an immediate declaration of invalidity would pose a "potential danger to the public or threaten the rule of law."

Jason Proctor
CBC News
Jan 17, 2018



Ontario Prisoner Class Action Certified

Koskie Minsky LLP has commenced a class action against the Province of Ontario alleging that lockdowns arising from the Province of Ontario's failure to properly staff its correctional institutions facilities have caused and continue to cause physical and psychological damage to inmates across the Province.

A staffing-related "lockdown" of a correctional institution occurs when prisoners are locked in their cells due to shortages of prison staff. Lockdowns can last for days or even weeks at a time. Staffing related lockdowns have become a common feature of Ontario's correctional institutions that deprive prisoners of their most basic rights.

The class includes:

All current and former prisoners of correctional institutions as defined in the Ministry of Correctional Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.22 (the "Correctional Institutions") since December 10, 2002 who are or were remanded, except the Excluded Persons; and,

All current and former prisoners of the Correctional Institutions since December 10, 2002 who are or were serving a sentence at a Correctional Institution or who have violated parole and are or were imprisoned at a Correctional Institution as a result, except the Excluded Persons; and

"Excluded Persons" are all prisoners detained by the Canadian Border Services Agency in accordance with the Immigration and Refugee Act, S.C. 2001, c. 27 and all prisoners of Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (solely with respect to their incarceration at Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre).

November 27, 2017

Justice Glustein certified this class action as a class proceeding.

Toll Free: 1-866-777-6309

Email: idclassaction@kmlaw.ca

You don't get to choose how you're going to die, or when. You can only decide how you're going to live now.

- Joan Baez

Ontario Training Schools class proceeding

Koskie Minsky LLP has commenced a class proceeding against the Province of Ontario on behalf of students of the following Ontario Training Schools:

- (a) Reception and Assessment Centre - Oakville;
- (b) Reception and Diagnostic Centre for Girls - Galt (Reception, Diagnostic, and Treatment Centre – Galt);
- (c) Ontario Training School for Girls - Lindsay (Kawartha Lakes School);
- (d) Trelawney House - Port Bolster;
- (e) Reception Centre for Boys - Bowmanville (Reception Centre, Bowmanville);
- (f) Ontario Training School for Boys - Simcoe (Glendale School);
- (g) Ontario Training School for Boys, Hagersville Junior School (White Oaks Village);
- (h) Ontario Training School for Boys, Hagersville Senior School (Sprucedale School);
- (i) Ontario Training School for Boys, Bowmanville (Pine Ridge School);
- (j) Ontario Training School for Boys, Cobourg (Brookside School);
- (k) Ontario Training School for Boys, Guelph (Hillcrest School);
- (l) Coldsprings Forestry Camp;
- (m) Cecil Fraser School; and
- (n) Project D.A.R.E.

The Plaintiff alleges that members of the class were physically, sexually and psychologically abused at the Schools. It is alleged that the Province of Ontario breached its fiduciary and common law duties to the class through the establishment, operation, and supervision of the Schools. In particular, it is alleged that the Province of Ontario failed to care for and protect class members, which resulted in loss or injury, including psychological trauma, pain and suffering and loss of enjoyment of life.

Toll Free: 1-866-860-9364

Email: trainingschoolsclassaction@kmlaw.ca

Immigrant Detainee Class Action Certified

Koskie Minsky LLP and Henein Hutchison LLP have commenced a class action against the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario alleging human rights violations relating to the treatment of immigrant detainees in Ontario's prisons.

The statement of claim issued on August 11, 2016 alleges, among other things, that the Canada Border Services Agency and the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services have been negligent, have breached their fiduciary duties and have breached the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in incarcerating immigrant detainees in Ontario's correctional facilities.

The class includes all migrants detained by the Canada Border Services Agency and incarcerated in a provincial prison between December, 2003 and the present. The Plaintiffs' lawyers believe that thousands of people will be included in this class proceeding.

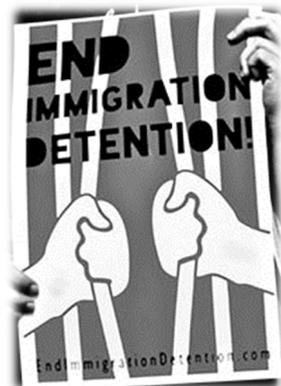
Godday Dadzie, an Ivory Coast national incarcerated in the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario, and Al Zeekehmen, a Liberian national incarcerated in Maplehurst Correctional Complex in Milton, Ontario are the proposed representative plaintiffs.

November 27, 2017

Justice Glustein certified this class action as a class proceeding.

Toll Free: 1-866-777-6309

Email: idclassaction@kmlaw.ca



A life of reaction is a life of slavery, intellectually and spiritually. One must fight for a life of action, not reaction.

- Rita Mae Brown

I Have to Love Myself

Hope was gone
 Only faith was left
 For the love I needed
 Was lost doing meth
 Now I've had four years in prison
 To contemplate life
 And have learned
 That love I want
 Won't come without a fight
 Now I know
 The love I need
 Has to start with me
 I have to love myself

- April Murphy

✎ PEN PALS ✎

Send in your ad: 25 Words or Less.
 We use Code #'s for Personal Safety.
 When mail contact has been made, it is
 up to you to exchange your name &
 address, ... but only, if that is what you
 choose to do.

Please Print Your Name & Address on
 All Letters and Photos.
 All Envelopes are Destroyed !!!

Participants agree that by using this
 service, it is at their own risk, and by
 accessing this service all users agree that
 WPN is not to be held liable in any way
 for harms suffered as a result of this
 service.

This magazine is only sent into women's
 prisons. (ads are not on web version)

NOT
 AVAILABLE
 ONLINE !

Pain

So much pain.
 So much sorrow.
 Tears that don't end until tomorrow.
 Yesterday he was standing there,
 Today he's gone nowhere near.
 My heart is breaking.
 My body's shaking.
 Where did he go.
 I'll never know.
 I'm so ashamed.
 Am I to blame.
 He won't speak.
 He won't write.
 If he did I'd fear we'd fight.
 I still love him inside and out.
 Please oh please.
 Help me to understand.
 The pain I feel.
 What it's really about.

- Melissa

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.

Important Hep C Update!

New treatments with excellent success rates are now available!

These are in pill form and have little or no side effects. The downside is the cost of course: \$1000+ per pill.

Harvoni: \$60,000 for 8 weeks (Genotype 1, low viral load, never-treated)

Harvoni: \$90,000 for 12 weeks (Genotype 1)

Sovaldi: \$55,000+ perhaps with other drugs for Genotypes other than Genotype 1

Federal Prison: you may be able to start your treatment while inside.

Provincial Prisons: Depending on the province, you may have to wait till 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 work done so you can get into a Treatment Program at no cost to you.

Important: most prisons, provincial drug plans, and private plans restrict the new drugs to people who have chronic hep C plus scarring of the liver (stage F2 or higher fibrosis). Both never-treated & people for whom Peg-Interferon & Ribavirin did not work are eligible for the newer treatments. For people with hep C and no liver scarring or light scarring (less than F2 fibrosis), it's still Peg-Interferon & Ribavirin. Get your liver tested! New tests have replaced biopsies: Fibre-test (blood) & Fibro-test (imaging).

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**

Facts about HIV and HCV

With some exceptions, HIV and HCV infection is generally more prevalent among women than men in prison, particularly among those who have a history of injection drug use.

In a study of provincial prisons in Quebec, the HIV and HCV rate among incarcerated women was, respectively, 8.8 and 29.2 percent, compared to 2.4 and 16.6 percent among male prisoners.

In a study of female prisoners in British Columbia (B.C.), self-reported rates of HIV and HCV were 8 percent and 52 percent, respectively.

In a 2007 nationwide survey by CSC, the HIV and HCV rate among federally incarcerated women was 5.5 and 30.3 percent, compared to 4.5 and 30.8 percent among federally incarcerated men. Aboriginal women reported the highest rates of HIV and HCV, at 11.7 and 49.1 percent, respectively.

While the majority of women in prison are voluntarily tested for both HIV and HCV, the provision of pre- and post-test counselling has been reported to be poor, and in some cases, non-existent.

Women in prison are more likely than women in the general population to have faced violence and abuse; therefore, counselling accompanying HIV diagnosis is particularly important. Women in prison have concerns about the privacy and confidentiality of their HIV status.

Women have reported being forced to draw unwanted attention. Women (37.0%) reported being HCV-positive. Aboriginal women were identified as a particularly high-risk group because they reported the highest rates of HIV (11.7%) and HCV infections (49.1%).

These data highlight the need to ensure that culturally appropriate, effective interventions that decrease risk-behaviours and increase utilization of harm-reduction measures are offered to meet the needs of Aboriginal women.



F.E.A.T. - Family Visitation

F.E.A.T. for Children of Incarcerated Parents 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.

F.E.A.T.'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, F.E.A.T. 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 F.E.A.T. to register today.

For more information or to book a seat on the bus please contact Jessica or Derek Reid by email at info@featforchildren.org 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*

featforchildren.org ~ 416-505-5333

Prison Radio

- Halifax – CKDU 88.1 FM
Black Power Hour – Fri 1:30-3 pm
Youth Now! – Mon 5-6:30 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
Prison Radio – Wed 7-8 pm

This 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.

The last Wednesday of each month, 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.

Write: CPR c/o CFRC, Lower Carruthers Hall,
Queen's University, Kingston, ON, K7L 3N6
Email: CFRCprisonradio@riseup.net
Call: 613-329-2693 to record a message or
music request to be broadcast on-air.

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY

☞ In Remembrance ☞

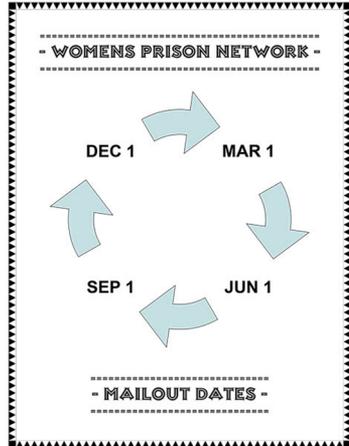
- August 10 -

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



Women's Prison Network Spring 2018 - Issue #10

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

info@WomensPrisonNetwork.org

visit, download, print, donate!
WomensPrisonNetwork.org

Send in your work
before May 1, 2018
Summer Issue #11 is sent
out Jun 1, 2018

Women, trans & youth prisoners:
Wish to receive 'Women's Prison Network'?
Contact us & we will add you to the mailing list!
Please let us know if you move.
This magazine is by and for you.
Thank you for sharing!
