

< Editor's Note >

It is Summer & Issue #42 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 (1/2 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 r an organization, please do consider a donation. It really, really does help to get this inside!

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Cover & page 9: Rocky Dobey



< Donors for this Issue >

Very special thanks out to: Charles K. !

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 paranoid is someone who knows a little of what's going on.
A psychotic is someone who's just found out what's going on.
- William S. Burroughs

Landmark Human Rights Tribunal Decision Advances Rights and Accessibility for Deaf & Hard of Hearing People in Federal Prisons

A landmark decision by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal in *Timothy Lidkea v. Correctional Service Canada* (2026 CHRT 19) marks a major advancement in the recognition and protection of the rights of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals within Canada's federal prison system.

In 2020, Timothy Lidkea filed a human rights complaint alleging that Correctional Service Canada (CSC) was discriminating against him on the basis of his disability and Indigenous identity by refusing to provide a meaningful way for him to communicate while he was in custody, including with health providers, Indigenous Elders, prison staff, community supports and others, leading to profound isolation, exclusion and other harms. The Tribunal concluded that "CSC was unquestionably reckless in its treatment" of Mr. Lidkea, since "[i]t knew that he required accommodation to effectively communicate with CSC staff and others but neglected to provide those services to him."

Mr. Lidkea's experience is representative of many Deaf people in prison, who are prevented from accessing the programs and services available to hearing people or using their language – American Sign Language (ASL) or langue des signes québécoise (LSQ) – with any regularity. This intensifies the physical and psychological impacts of prison, including isolation, and limits opportunities for community release and reintegration. The extreme overrepresentation of Indigenous people in prison results in additional discrimination and harm for Deaf people who are Indigenous, like Mr. Lidkea.

The Tribunal's decision affirms that Deaf people in custody are entitled to meaningful access to communication in ASL and LSQ. It also affirms the right to a telephone system that is reasonably comparable to the one used by hearing prisoners, and to opportunities for at least two hours per day of effective interpersonal communication. The ruling mandates broad, system-wide changes on the part of CSC. In response to the decision, Mr. Lidkea stated: "I brought this case because my rights were being denied, but it was not just for me. Many other Deaf people have experienced discrimination by

CSC and continue to be denied accommodation. Now that the Tribunal has affirmed our rights, CSC must address past wrongs. We call on CSC to support Deaf incarcerated people who were denied support to have more opportunities for parole since the system has been failing them."

Organizations involved in the case say the decision represents a turning point for accessibility in Canada's federal prisons.

"Too often, prisons fail to respect the basic rights and dignity of people in custody, and resist calls for change from incarcerated people and civil society organizations," said Lisa Crossley, a Staff Lawyer with Prisoners' Legal Services ("PLS"), who represented Mr. Lidkea along with Jessica Magonet (formerly of PLS), Brodie Noga of JFK Law LLP and Katie Ussher of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP. "We are delighted that the Tribunal has directed CSC to make long-overdue changes to address the bias, exclusion and discrimination our Deaf clients continue to face. We are hopeful that provincial custody centres will take note of this decision and implement similar changes."

"Canadian Association of the Deaf / Association des Sourds du Canada (CAD-ASC) has long recognized that the pattern of deprivation of sign language interpreters and services while incarcerated has led to a type of "solitary confinement" for Deaf individuals," said Richard Belzile, a Representative of CAD-ASC, which intervened in the case. "CAD-ASC encourages CSC to accept the Tribunal's decision and to begin the work that will establish programs and policies that will truly support the rehabilitation of Deaf and hard of hearing prisoners."

"The Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) is very pleased with the remedy ordered by the Tribunal," said Heather Walkus, Chair of CCD, which also intervened in the case. "Not only does it address the individual discrimination experienced by Mr. Lidkea, it also requires the CSC to make comprehensive systemic changes to its policies and procedures regarding Deaf people in custody. It stands as a firm reminder that governments have a legal duty to accommodate people with disabilities when barriers are identified."

GlobeNewswire
Mar 23, 2026

Maplehurst: One of Many Hosts Harboursing "Secret Ontario"

Provincial jails in Ontario fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Solicitor General but are run by ghostly covert forces, shadowy bodies with no face or form, no office or officers, no accountability, no liability, a protected potent blight infesting the weak and vulnerable. Its corruptive cankers are wherever there is the powerless... jails, youth group homes and foster care homes, places where the elderly are stored, anywhere the defenceless are gathered.

How else do we explain the difference between policy and practice? How do we square what the people we've entrusted with power tell us against the truths hiding beneath the rocks under their feet? "Secret Ontario." **

Avoiding scrutiny is paramount. Our governing institutions invoke the Victorian maxim often used in this space, "I don't care what you do as long as you don't do it in the streets and frighten the horses." No one can know. Maplehurst did well at hiding the chaos and lawlessness guards and management inflicted on 192 inmates in December of 2023; that is, until courts began staying inmate charges, reducing inmate criminal liabilities, and issuing damning condemnations against the jail. Then, as whatever it is we like to call it, hit the fan and we saw videos and heard testimonies.

So, what has happened? We continue to hear of stayed or reduced charges for Maplehurst inmates impacted by the events of December 22-23, 2023. A class action lawsuit is underway. What of the perpetrators? What came from the two investigations? Have you heard anything? Has anybody heard anything? Imagine the anger at Queen's Park for Maplehurst management and staff allowing itself to "frighten the horses." In a freedom of information (FOI) request, we asked for the name of the current Maplehurst superintendent. The answer confirmed that today's Millhaven superintendent is not the same person as was in that office in December of 2023. We didn't ask where that superintendent was now because, as it turns out, that information would have been none of our business.

Three further freedom of information (FOI) requests were submitted in December of 2025. One asked for the number of Correctional

Officers charged with criminal or policy offences arising from that pre-Christmas incident in Maplehurst in 2023. Another asked for the number of criminal and policy offences laid against guards. The third wanted to know how many guards had been dismissed because of that disorder at the jail.

All were answered with the same response. "Please be advised that access to the requested records is denied. Access to the responsive information is denied in accordance with section(s) S.65 (6) of the Act as follows: S.65 (6), Labour Relations & Employment Related Records." In other words, as noted earlier, this is none of the public's business. Privacy issues are a real and justifiable concern, but should civil service wrongdoing be privileged? Criminal charges are in the public domain unless otherwise court-ordered, but Ontario will do what governments always aim to do. Minimize the damage. I doubt there'll be any charges. We passed on appealing to the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Ontario... this time.

Another FOI was submitted on March 6.

"What do your records show are the number of institutional and criminal charges laid against Correctional Officers at Maplehurst Correctional Complex arising from the incident at the facility on December 22-23, 2023?"

This is not a request for the number of Correctional Officers who have been charged of for any information which would identify any Correctional Officer."

We expect the same previous response, but this time the option to appeal will be exercised. Let our provincial government double-down on its right (power?) to support "Secret Ontario."

Ever feel governments take on more power than we intend them to have?

TurnOverARockToday.com
Mar 16, 2026

(** "Secret Canada" is a project of the Globe and Mail. Take a Look!)

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.

How do I look up court cases in my province or territory?

The *Globe and Mail* is expanding its 'Secret Canada' project for the first time since it launched three years ago, now offering a comprehensive guide on how to access court records in different jurisdictions across the country.

This new tool lays out the basics of what kinds of records Canadians are entitled to access, and the process to obtain documents such as lawsuits, small claims files, bankruptcy records and daily dockets.

The guide provides this information for each province, territory and federal jurisdiction - and can be found on SecretCanada.com in the resources section.

Up until now, Secret Canada has focused on Canada's broken freedom of information (FOI) regime. FOI - which is also called access to information and right to information -- is the process by which Canadians can obtain records from most publicly funded entities, including each level of government, police services, hospitals, universities, Crown corporations and transit agencies.

As part of the reporting, The *Globe* created SecretCanada.com, which features a database of hundreds of thousands of completed FOI requests as well as numerous guides for how to use, file and appeal FOIs.

Like FOI, there is no one Canadian court system. Each jurisdiction has its own rules and processes. Secret Canada's new guide on accessing court records builds off a previous one that lays out the different FOI regimes in each part of the country.

The site also includes a letter generator with templates. In 2025, more than 5,200 people used the Secret Canada FOI generator.

Robyn Doolittle & Danielle Webb
Globe and Mail
Jan 19, 2026

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!)

Anarchist Fictions, Issue 3: 'Burn the Prisons'

Send us your writings on the theme of:
BURN THE PRISONS

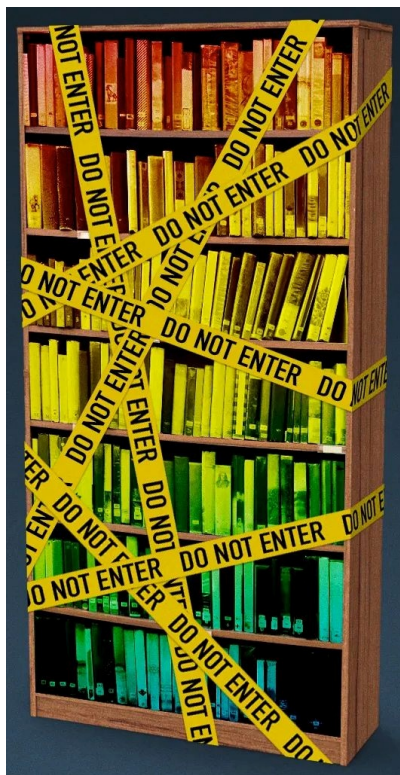
POETRY: 5 pages max. \$20 CAD per poem if printed. Deadline: June 30, 2026.

SHORT STORIES: 5,000 words max. \$50 CAD if printed. Deadline: July 31, 2026.

MEMOIRS & CREATIVE NON-FICTION: 2,500 words max. \$50 CAD if printed. Deadline: Sept 30, 2026.

Send your writing attached or in the body of an email with **ISSUE 3 SUBMISSION** as the subject line to: anarchistfictions@proton.me.

We aim to respond to all entries by Oct 31.



Academics pan decision to cut CEGEP education in Quebec's federal prisons

Inmates in Quebec's federal prisons will soon be deprived of post-secondary studies that had been offered for 52 years after Correctional Service Canada (CSC) decided to slash funding. At the Cowansville federal prison, about 100 kilometres east of Montreal, the news was received with profound disappointment.

"People were mourning. Several people were crying," professor Samuel Rochette said.

The psychology professor at Cégep Marie-Victorin, who also teaches in prisons, added that the most moving moment was when people stood up and explained how their studies had changed their lives.

As of June 30, CSC will suspend its funding for CEGEP education in federal prisons in Quebec.

Cégep Marie-Victorin was the last in the province to offer a pre-university program in social sciences to inmates at the Cowansville men's and Joliette women's institutions.

According to Rochette, around 60 inmates are enrolled in CEGEP courses at the Cowansville and Joliette facilities, but thousands have benefited from these educational services over the past few decades.

The program is so popular that some inmates are transferred to these two penitentiaries for the sole purpose of attending it.

There's even a waiting list.

"This training allows inmates to feel competent outside of prison. And it gives them the feeling that they can be something other than just a 'criminal,'" Rochette highlighted.

Louis Gendron, executive director of Cégep Marie-Victorin, said the decision makes no sense.

"It's shocking. We're completely shaken up," Gendron said. "It's in our DNA to serve and welcome populations of all kinds, with different needs."

Gendron and a group of professors are preparing a letter that they plan to send to the federal and provincial ministers of public safety. Their hope is to get the federal government to walk back its decision.

"We do not accept the situation," Gendron said. The CEGEP's board of directors also unanimously adopted a resolution on Wednesday evening condemning the decision and requesting that it be reviewed.

In a letter by the CEGEP sent to its staff impacted by the federal move, the administration said this partnership between the school and federal prisons has enabled hundreds of inmates to "regain confidence" and "successfully reintegrate into society."

In an email to Radio-Canada, Correctional Service Canada confirmed that contracts to offer post-secondary education programs will not be renewed in line with their "responsibilities provided for by law and main correctional priorities."

This decision is part of a comprehensive review of expenses following \$132 million in cuts imposed on CSC in the latest federal budget.

"CSC will continue to focus its efforts on education-related components, as required by law, as well as training that meets labour market needs and supports employment outcomes," read the statement.

For Frédéric Armstrong, researcher and UNESCO Chair in applied research for education in prison, CSC's decision is "short-sighted," "disappointing," and will have negative consequences on several levels.

"If we do not prepare [inmates] with a range of services, including education, there is a risk that rehabilitation and social reintegration will be less successful," Armstrong said.

He added that engaging prisoners in education also contributes to the mission of safety in correctional facilities.

"Keeping people busy doing something constructive takes away from the time they have to do things that are not constructive," Armstrong explained.

Laurence Guénette, director of the Ligue des droits et libertés, an organization advocating for human rights, calls this move an "unacceptable new setback" for the rights of inmates and the continuation of a "process of dehumanization."

"Prison conditions are already appalling. People in detention are deprived of their freedom, but they should keep their other rights, including the right to education," said Guénette.

Armstrong and others are asking CSC to reconsider its decision to cut funds.

"The process by which an incarcerated individual comes to understand that they can be something different than a criminal or an offender, that they can be a citizen, a father, a friend, a student, is the key to hope," Armstrong said.

"And if the program is no longer there, hope is no longer there."

Fannie Bussières McNicoll
CBC News
Feb 08, 2026

Manitoba inmates placed in solitary confinement can soon seek compensation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brittany Hobson
The Canadian Press
Jun 5, 2026

GELA Statement on CSC's Plan to Phase Out Librarians & Library Worker Positions

Correctional Service Canada (CSC) recently announced a plan to phase out librarians and library workers in federal prisons as a response to federal budget cuts. This plan has been met with serious concern from library professionals, advocates, and community members.

GELA stands in support of the positions put forward by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) and the Prison Libraries Network, which assert that prisoners have a right to access information to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, and cultural enrichment. Neither these organizations, nor library professionals working in correctional settings, were meaningfully consulted on this decision.

Prison libraries serve a population with complex and urgent needs who include people with low literacy, mental illness, cognitive deficits, and the lasting effects of intergenerational trauma. Library workers provide not just books, but programming, legal information access, Indigenous cultural resources, and literacy support. CSC's own Commissioner's Directive 720 (2025) requires library services that are comparable to those in the community while meeting the unique needs of a correctional environment. Removing trained library professionals makes that obligation impossible to fulfill.

This decision also conflicts with Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action #30, #36, and #38, the Corrections and Conditional Release Regulations, and internationally recognized standards including the UN's Nelson Mandela Rules. Replacing librarians with program officers, correctional officers, or volunteers is not an adequate substitute. GELA Prison Libraries Project (PLP) volunteers with decades of experience supporting prison libraries and providing library-related programming can attest to this directly.

We urge CSC to abandon this plan, consult with library professionals, and uphold its legal and ethical obligation to meet the information needs of our incarcerated community members.

Prison Libraries Project,
GELA Executive Committee
May 15, 2026

Important Legal Advice!

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

- William Baxter

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

- Jermy Bentham

Lawyer: One skilled in the circumvention of the law.

- Ambrose Bierce

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

- Anonymous

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

- Benjamin Franklin

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

- Benjamin Franklin

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

- Elbert Hubbard

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

- Jerome K. Jerome

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

- F. Ross Johnson

Lawyers, I suppose, were children once.

- Charles Lamb

Lawyers should never marry other lawyers.

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

- Kip Lurie

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

- H.L. Mencken

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

- John Naisbitt

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

- R. Rinkle

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

- David Mellor

Make crime pay. Become a Lawyer.

- Will Rogers

Prisoners' Justice Day is ...

... a solidarity movement that takes place every year on August 10.

The movement began in Canada in 1974 in support of prisoners' rights and to remember all the people who have died of unnatural deaths while incarcerated.



- The right to meaningful work with fair wages
- The right to useful education and training
- The right to proper medical attention
- The right to freedom of speech and religion
- The right to adequate legal services



The Prisoner's Lament

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

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

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

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

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

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

- John W



If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Why the English language is so hard to learn:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail
- 18) After a number of injections my jaw got number.
- 19) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
- 20) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests
- 21) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France (Surprise!). Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend. If you

have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? Is it an odd, or an end?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out, and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Watch your Back! Still on the Books ...

From January 1999 to October 2009, 38 people in Ontario were charged under Section 365, which deals with fraudulently pretending to exercise witchcraft, sorcery, fortune telling or conjuration.

Section 163 (1b) - It's illegal to print, publish, distribute, sell or possess a crime comic - those popular 1940s comic books with graphic depictions of violence and illicit doings.

Section 49 (a) - It's illegal to commit an act with "intent to alarm Her Majesty." This offence carries a prison sentence that can't exceed 14 years.

Section 143 - Each time a victim of theft puts up a poster advertising a reward with "no questions asked" for the return of a stolen item, they are breaking a federal law.

Section 339 (1) - Anyone found guilty of "fraudulently" taking driftwood found in a lake or stream can be imprisoned for up to five years.

Sections 32-33 & 64-69 - These provisions require raucous groups to disperse within 30 minutes after being read the declaration commonly known as the Riot Act or else run the risk of facing life in prison.

Book Clubs for Inmates (BCFI)

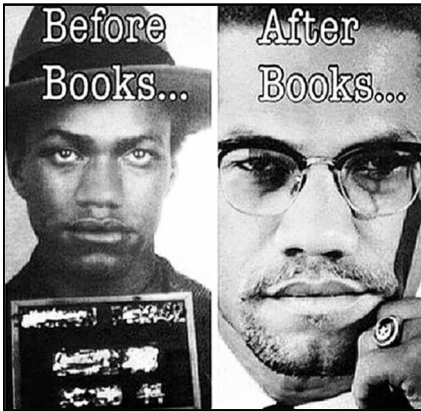
Book Clubs for Inmates (BCFI) is a registered charity that organizes volunteer-led book clubs within federal penitentiaries across Canada. Currently, BCFI is facilitating 30 book clubs from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

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

Open your mind and let the pictures out.

As soon as you know you are in prison, you have a possibility to escape.

- 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 & 2-4pm**

☎ 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 & 2-4pm**

☎ 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!
234-1110 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.

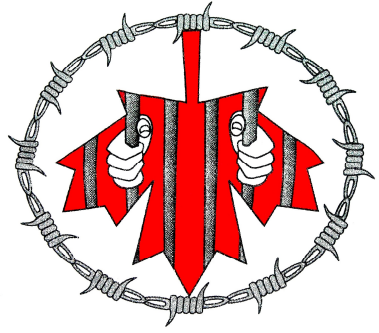
For more information or to book a seat on the bus please contact Jessica or Derek Reid by email at:

info.kipcanada@gmail.com

or by phone at: 416-505-5333



SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IS TORTURE



∞ Issue #42 - Summer 2026 ∞

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

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www.ClassActionNews.org

> Jan > Apr > Jul > Oct >

Next Issue: #43 - Fall 2026

Deadline: Sep 1, 2026
Mail-out: Oct 1, 2026

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 !

