

From: "Irving Kulik" <irvingkulik@rogers.com>
Subject: **CCJA News April 7, 2010**
Date: April 7, 2010 7:31:35 PM GMT+03:00
To: "Irving Kulik" <irvingkulik@rogers.com>
Cc: <c.delisle@rogers.com>

CCJA- News, April 7,2010

Nouvelles-ACJP, le 7 avril, 2010

1. Police-reported robbery statistics 2008-StatsCanada

The nature and extent of robberies, as reported to police, has changed during the past decade. Commercial robberies have declined, while robberies occurring in residences and public transit facilities have increased. Firearms were used in 14% of robberies in 2008, compared with 20% a decade earlier.

Canadian police services reported about 32,000 incidents of robbery in 2008, accounting for 7% of all violent crimes. The police-reported rate of robbery was down 10% from 1999, although most of this decline occurred between 1999 and 2002.

Police-reported residential robberies, often referred to as "home invasions," increased 38% between 1999 and 2005. Since then, they have been relatively stable.

The vast majority of robberies were committed by young men. In 2008, almost 9 in 10 of those accused of robbery were male and nearly two-thirds were between the ages of 12 and 24.

Money was the most common item reported stolen (37% of all robberies), followed by personal accessories such as jewellery (18%). Electronic devices such as cell phones, personal music devices and computers, items that can often be sold for a quick profit, were next at 15%.

2. What's the agenda behind the Tory prison budget boost?

Prison ombudsman Howard Sapers makes sense of the proposed influx of money

3. Call for Abstracts-2010 Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference

4. Burgeoning prison budgets spared the axe

As Ottawa sets deep cuts for public service, Corrections Canada goes on a hiring spree

5. National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2010

Register now for the federal symposium on Monday, April 19, 2010

6. Get smart on crime

by *Craig Jones, executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada.*

7. 50 ans, de l'École de criminologie de l'U de M

8. 37th Annual National Criminal Law Program – Registration Open

1. Police-reported robbery statistics 2008-StatsCanada

The nature and extent of robberies, as reported to police, has changed during the past decade. Commercial robberies have declined, while robberies occurring in residences and public transit facilities have increased. Firearms were used in 14% of robberies in 2008, compared with 20% a decade earlier.

Canadian police services reported about 32,000 incidents of robbery in 2008, accounting for 7% of all violent crimes. The police-reported rate of robbery was down 10% from 1999, although most of this decline occurred between 1999 and 2002.

Police-reported residential robberies, often referred to as "home invasions," increased 38% between 1999 and 2005. Since then, they have been relatively stable.

The vast majority of robberies were committed by young men. In 2008, almost 9 in 10 of those accused of robbery were male and nearly two-thirds were between the ages of 12 and 24.

Money was the most common item reported stolen (37% of all robberies), followed by personal accessories such as jewellery (18%). Electronic devices such as cell phones, personal music devices and computers, items that can often be sold for a quick profit, were next at 15%.

Three provinces drive decline in robbery rates

During the past decade, three provinces (Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba) have driven the overall decline in the rate of police-reported robbery. Between 1999 and 2008, the rate fell 30% in Quebec, 22% in British Columbia and 20% in Manitoba.

However, robberies increased in all of the remaining provinces over the past decade, with the largest increase reported in Newfoundland and Labrador. While the rate in this province more than doubled, it remained well below the national average.

Western Canada, particularly Manitoba, recorded the highest rates of police-reported robbery in the country. This is similar to the pattern for overall violent crime rates.

Among census metropolitan areas (CMAs), the highest rates were reported in the western CMAs of Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Vancouver and Edmonton. The only CMAs in Central and Eastern Canada with above-average robbery rates were Montréal, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Halifax and Hamilton.

Half of all robberies occur in an outdoor public location

In 2008, about half of all robberies were committed on the street or in another outdoor public location such as a parking lot or public transit facility. Another 39% took place in a commercial establishment such as a convenience store or bank. The remaining 10% were residential robberies.

The overall decline in robberies since 1999 resulted from a decrease in the rate of commercial robberies. In particular, bank robberies fell 38%, while robberies of gas stations and convenience stores were down 32%.

Rates of bank robberies in Vancouver and Abbotsford-Mission in 2008 were well above those in any other metropolitan area. Robberies of gas stations and convenience stores were highest in Montréal and Winnipeg.

Robberies occurring in public transit facilities have doubled since 1999, although they continue to account for a relatively low proportion of all incidents (4%). The highest rates of public transit robberies were reported in Edmonton and Montréal.

Home invasions

Although there is no Criminal Code offence of home invasion, it is generally defined as a residential robbery in which force was used to gain entry and the accused was aware that someone was home.

In 2008, police reported 2,700 home invasions - robberies that occurred in a private residence. The rate of home invasions rose 38% between 1999 and 2005 and has been relatively stable since.

Home invasions are committed by strangers less often than other types of robberies. In 2008, 63% of home invasions were committed by a stranger compared with 90% of other types of robbery.

Just over one-quarter of home invasions were committed by acquaintances, which include criminal relationships.

One in seven robberies involves a firearm

Between 1977 and 2002, the rate of robberies committed with a firearm declined steadily. Since then, the rate has remained stable.

A firearm was involved in 14% of all robberies in 2008, compared with 20% a decade earlier. Robberies committed with other weapons, most commonly knives, accounted for 29% of all incidents. No weapon was involved in the remaining 57%.

Table: Police-reported robbery by province and territory

	2008	2008	1999 to 2008
	number	rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate
Newfoundland and Labrador	139	27	115
Prince Edward Island	23	16	7
Nova Scotia	575	61	24
New Brunswick	210	28	18
Quebec	6,974	90	-30
Ontario	11,920	92	7
Manitoba	1,907	158	-20
Saskatchewan	1,305	128	32
Alberta	3,783	106	8
British Columbia	5,391	123	-22
Yukon	15	45	-7
Northwest Territories	23	53	14

Nunavut	16	51	95
Canada	32,281	97	-10

Table: Police-reported robbery by census metropolitan area (CMA)

	2008	2008	1999 to 2008
	number	rate per 100,000 populati on	% change in rate

500,000 and over population			
Winnipeg	1,771	233	-24
Vancouver	3,894	171	-32
Edmonton	1,935	171	11
Montréal	5,695	151	-32
Toronto	7,378	133	0
Hamilton	824	117	18
Calgary	1,286	108	-13
Ottawa(1)	872	95	-21
Québec	354	48	-37
Kitchener	238	47	-25
100,000 to less than 500,000 population			
Regina	465	222	31
Saskatoon	548	212	1
Thunder Bay	157	131	123
Abbotsford-Mission(2)	215	127	5
Halifax	482	122	9
Kelowna	166	95	..
Windsor	278	83	57
Saint John	80	78	74
St. Catharines-Niagara	335	76	18
Victoria	255	73	-36
London	355	73	27
Greater Sudbury	120	73	40
Gatineau(3)	187	63	-1
St. John's	113	62	105
Trois-Rivières	84	57	10
Brantford	75	55	..
Peterborough	64	53	..
Sherbrooke	86	47	-25
Barrie	88	45	..
Moncton	47	35	..
Guelph	39	32	..
Kingston(2)	47	30	8
Saguenay	36	25	-2
Canada	32,281	97	-10

- .. not available for a specific reference period
1. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.
2. Percent change in the rate is calculated from 2001 to 2008.
3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA.

 Table: Police-reported robbery by type of location

	2008	2008	2008
	number	%	rate per 100,000 populati on
Outdoor public location	13,634	50.3	42
Street	9,123	33.7	28
Parking lot	1,669	6.2	5
Open area	1,646	6.1	5
Transit facility	1,196	4.4	4
Commercial or institution location	10,682	39.4	33
Convenience store and gas station	3,518	13.0	11
Bank or financial institution	1,240	4.6	4
Other commercial place	5,024	18.5	15
School	560	2.1	2
Other non-commercial place	340	1.3	1
Residence	2,782	10.3	9
Private dwelling unit ("home invasion")	2,679	9.9	8
Other private property structure	103	0.4	0

 1999 to
 2008

% change
 in rate

Outdoor public location	8
Street	4
Parking lot	-17
Open area	23
Transit facility	107
Commercial or institution location	-34
Convenience store and gas station	-32
Bank or financial institution	-38
Other commercial place	-33
School	-11
Other non-commercial place	-63
Residence	25
Private dwelling unit ("home invasion")	22
Other private property structure	...

... not applicable

Note: Counts in this table do not match counts in the other tables due to differing data sources.

2.

What's the agenda behind the Tory prison budget boost?

Prison ombudsman Howard Sapers makes sense of the proposed influx of money

by [Kate Lunau](#), Macleans.CA, March 30, 2010

News broke yesterday that the Conservative government is [planning](#) to boost its prison budget by 27 per cent over the next three years, filling 4,000 new positions, just as almost every other federal department is tightening its belt. This follows a *Maclean's* [report](#) on the state of Canada's prisons, where chronic underfunding has led to a growing number of inmates, especially the mentally ill, landing in solitary confinement cells. The media was quick to spin the budget increase as a bad news story—one linked to the Tories' [controversial](#) "tough on crime" agenda, and an anticipated rise in the inmate population—but given the sorry state of Canada's prison system, shouldn't a funding boost be welcome?

Here, federal prisons ombudsman [Howard Sapers](#) responds to news of a proposed funding boost for Canada's prisons.

Macleans.ca: Is an increase in funding expected, or did this come as a surprise?

Sapers: I certainly wasn't surprised. Even if there was no public policy change, there are very real, very immediate infrastructure pressures [on Canada's prison system]. The Correctional Service already double-bunks about 10 per cent of its population: we're talking about cells built for one person that are currently housing two, even though the Service's current policy is single cell accommodation, which is in keeping with international standards.

The service doesn't have the capacity it needs at certain security classifications to meet the current population, let alone any population increase. And it's no surprise that if you make policy changes that will result in more people spending more time in prison, you're going to need to deal with capacity issues. That means new money.

What I'm hoping is that there will be increasing opportunities for the Correctional Service to look at its priorities and allocation decisions.

Macleans.ca: What sorts of priorities do you mean?

Sapers: Half of the Correctional Service's mandate is around safe and secure custody; the other is timely and safe reintegration of offenders. To achieve the reintegration part, it delivers programs and interventions designed to deal with things like violence prevention and drug abuse—factors that brought people into conflict with the law to begin with. Programs [that help] offenders return to communities safely, and in a law-abiding way.

The Service, as it presently exists, is about a \$2.5 billion a year operation. I would argue that at some level, there is simply not enough money, but one way of looking at underfunding is to see whether the money you get is being spent with the best return on investment. [The Correctional Service] will spend over 97 per cent of its current money on meeting half of its mandate. It spends less than 3 per cent of their budget delivering those programs; the other 97 per cent goes into the security side of the equation. The question is, is that the right split or not. I would argue it doesn't represent a very good balance. Part of the underfunding [problem] could be addressed by transferring money to the programs side.

Macleans.ca: Do you believe the anticipated extra funding, which has yet to be approved, is tied to an expected influx of inmates?

Sapers: Certainly the Correctional Service [has suggested] that as a result of policy changes, there will be more offenders spending more time in prison. If you're going to have more offenders spending more time in prison, you have to do something about capacity. Some of that money no doubt, and I can't tell you how much of it, is tied to that public policy

position that more offenders will be spending more time in prison.

Macleans.ca: What are your priorities this year?

Sapers: My [priorities](#) continue to be the same: our focus on mental health; program capacity dealing with the particular needs of aboriginal offenders; and the particular needs of women offenders. Finding alternatives to the continued overuse of [segregation](#) for those high-needs offenders. These continue to be very real and very immediate problems.

Macleans.ca: So should we welcome the news that prisons might receive more money, as these gaps might be filled? Or is it only an indication that we'll see a growing number of people incarcerated?

Sapers: That is exactly the right question. Not to be trite about it, but time will tell.



3. Call for Abstracts-2010 Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference

The Canadian Mental Health Association – NS Division & NS Department of Health Promotion & Protection, hosts of the 2010 Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference: *Communities Addressing Suicide Together*, are pleased to announce that the Call for Abstracts is now open!

We invite communities, survivors, community-based practitioners, clinicians, researchers and policy-makers to submit an abstract that focuses on innovative and promising practice in addressing suicide. The guidelines and submission form for the Call for Abstracts are available on the conference website at www.suicideprevention.ca/2010

The conference will take place at Alderney Landing Cultural Centre on the Dartmouth waterfront in Halifax, Nova Scotia from October 5-7, 2010. Registration will open on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. Please note that seats are limited – we encourage you to register early!

Looking forward to seeing you in Nova Scotia!

Angela Davis & Julian Young
Conference Co-Chairs

1 (877) 466-6606
Casp2010@eastlink.ca



4. Burgeoning prison budgets spared the axe

By Bill Curry, Globe and Mail, March 29, 2010

As Ottawa sets deep cuts for public service, Corrections Canada goes on a hiring spree

Ottawa will spend more money on federal prisons in coming years - a rare exception to government-wide restraint and a sharp contrast to efforts by cash-strapped American states to save money through lower inmate populations.

New figures released this week show the budget for Corrections Canada is projected to rise 27 per cent from the 2010-2011 fiscal year to 2012-13, when it will reach \$3.1-billion. More than 4,000 new positions will be created at correctional institutions and parole offices across the country, with estimates of a 25-per-cent increase in employees during the same period.

The spike in spending is clearly linked in a government report to the Conservatives' suite of law-and-order crime bills,

which legislate longer prison sentences for a range of offences and limit the opportunities for parole. Even with this new spending, the government warns the extra burden may put staff and inmates in harm's way.

"The risk is that longer periods of time in federal custody will put additional pressures on an aging physical infrastructure and potentially increase risks to the safety and security of staff and offenders," warns a report prepared by Corrections Canada and signed by Public Safety Minister Vic Toews.

The Conservative push comes despite declining crime rates in Canada, but amid polls showing the popularity of tough-on-crime measures.

On an average day last year, Corrections Canada was responsible for 13,287 federally incarcerated offenders and 8,726 offenders in the community. These numbers are expected to increase, but the report does not say by how much.

In contrast, in the United States - where incarceration rates have risen by a startling 705 per cent over the last four decades - several states are now undoing measures that restrict access to parole and require longer incarceration periods, partly due to budget pressures created by the economic downturn.

As a result, the number of state prisoners in the U.S. dropped last year for the first time in nearly 40 years, according to a survey of detention data released this month by the Pew Center on the States. California has reduced the number of convicts returning to incarceration by changing parole violation rules, while Michigan has reduced its inmate population by 6,000 by waiving some measures requiring convicts to serve 100 per cent of their sentence in prison.

However, the number of federally incarcerated inmates continues to climb in the U.S.

Mr. Toews told The Globe and Mail on Friday that he was not aware of developments in the United States, but defended the planned Correctional Service Canada budget increase.

"Security is obviously an important issue for this government and we're moving on that file," he said. "I'm not familiar with the American system. I know what is necessary in order to ensure that the Canadian public is safe and that prisoners are well treated."

The government released the three-year spending projections for Corrections Canada on Thursday as part of two boxes of reports given to Parliament by all federal departments. While the release comes more than three weeks after the 2010 budget, officials say much of the work on the reports was completed before the budget's announcement that departmental spending would be frozen at 2010-11 levels as part of the government's effort to erase the deficit.

The reports to Parliament largely appear to reflect that edict, as most departments project declines in spending and staffing over the coming years.

They also hint that controversial cuts lie on the horizon. For instance, the documents project a 25-per-cent reduction of the overall budget at Environment Canada. That includes slicing the department's budget for "climate change and clean air" from \$242-million in 2010-2011 to \$76-million in 2012-13.

The documents caution that these reductions may not materialize, as programs set to expire may ultimately be renewed, which would then add to the department's budget.

A similar caution is included in the report from Agriculture Canada, which is projected to lose 42 per cent of its budget. The department's report projects spending on "food safety and biosecurity" will drop from \$154-million in 2010-2011 to \$90-million in 2012-13.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has said that part of the government's plan for balancing the books will be to not renew some programs that expire.



5. National Victims of Crime Awareness Week 2010

Register now for the federal symposium on Monday, April 19, 2010 at Old City Hall in Ottawa (111 Sussex Drive). The day

will begin with an opening ceremony and keynote address by the Honourable Judge Gerald M. Morin, a remarkable judicial leader from Saskatchewan. Workshops following throughout the day will focus on various topics including: the Community Impact of Hate Crimes; How Families Experience the Criminal Justice System; and a chance to provide input into the planning for the renewal of the Government of Canada's Federal Victims Strategy.

Registration is free and includes access to all sessions, as well as complimentary lunch and refreshments. As space is limited, we encourage you to register early. The deadline for registration is April 12, 2010.

The NVCAW website <<http://www.victimswweek.gc.ca/home-accueil.html>> has been updated with new information including the addition of testimonials offered from a personal perspective and success stories highlighting the services provided by victim-serving agencies. Links to events and more information will be posted as the Week approaches.

For more information on the federal symposium, to register, and to see the updated materials posted for your use, please visit www.victimswweek.gc.ca



6. Get smart on crime

by *Craig Jones is executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada.*
Posted: March 29, 2010, National Post

The federal stimulus program includes a component few are talking about: building prisons to accommodate our growing rate of incarceration. The recently published 2010-2011 Treasury Board Estimates reveal that Correctional Services Canada (CSC) saw their global budget grow by \$255.7-million of which \$87.2-million is for the implementation of the "Truth in Sentencing Act" alone. An additional \$84.8-million is dedicated to "various accommodation measures" to absorb the expected growth.

We don't really know what the final bill for all these "tough on crime" measures will be; the government is holding the important numbers in Cabinet confidence. Perhaps, as the Minister of Justice assures us, Canadians are prepared to pay any price pursuing the amorphous promise of "public safety," notwithstanding that Canada is already one of the safest of the developed nations. Between 1998 and 2007 Canada's overall crime rate declined by 15% while crime severity fell by 21%.

Yet the government continues to roll out its "tough on crime" agenda as if crime rates were trending steadily upward while refusing to talk about either direct or opportunity costs. Federal expenditures on corrections, in constant dollars, have already increased 19.1% from 2003-04 to 2007-08 according to Public Safety's records. The government has also committed to growing the federally incarcerated population by 10-11% through the elimination of two-for-one credit for time served in remand.

Are there cheaper and more effective alternatives to expanding the prison population? There are, but you won't hear this government talking about them. In any event, before the government spends countless millions putting more people behind bars, even as crime rates fall, we should have a public discussion about incarceration versus prevention, a debate informed by evidence rather than ideology.

The government must also consider that their politically driven crime agenda may actually increase the crime rate in the long term. Take, for example, the promise to abolish statutory release; a form of conditional release by which offenders are subject to community supervision after two-thirds of their sentence. This would have the immediate effect of adding more time to every federal sentence, at the end of which an offender would be released to the community without any form of supervision. Yet the best analyses available suggest that abolishing statutory release would not only be expensive but could actually drive up the rate of re-offending. Over the last ten years 60% of statutory releases have been successfully completed, and only 1.3% of those released have committed a violent crime after being incarcerated. Clearly, statutory release, with attendant supervision and community reintegration efforts, works. The government's own research confirms this.

Canadians eager to crack down on crime should look to the United States, which despite having 25% of the world's prison population is now backing out of its "tough on crime" experiment. The federal government owes it to us to come clean with how it plans to spend taxpayer money and to convince us — with more than tough talk and chest thumping — that the benefits of stimulus through incarceration outweigh the costs.





8. 37th Annual National Criminal Law Program – Registration Open

Join over 600 Crowns, defence counsel, judges and other criminal justice participants in spectacular St. John's, Newfoundland this summer for the Federation of Law Societies of Canada's 37th Annual National Criminal Law Program. This year's theme is Substantive Criminal Law, Advocacy and the Administration of Justice. Presented annually since 1974, the Program is Canada's largest, most prestigious criminal law conference. The faculty is comprised of the country's finest defence lawyers, Crown prosecutors and the judiciary, giving attendees a unique opportunity to benefit from the skills and knowledge of this premiere teaching team. Two volumes of printed material, written specifically for the Program, provide delegates with the most comprehensive, up-to-date criminal law resource materials available today. Receptions on Monday and Tuesday, and informal gatherings Thursday offer organized opportunities to socialize, forge new friendships and reconnect with colleagues from across the country. Don't miss this extraordinary must attend CLE and networking event. July 12 to 16, 2010. Register early. Enrolment is limited. For the Program brochure visit <http://www.flsc.ca/en/pdf/NCLP2010Brochure.pdf> or the Federation's website at www.flsc.ca.



Irving Kulik
Executive Director/Directeur général
613-725-3715