

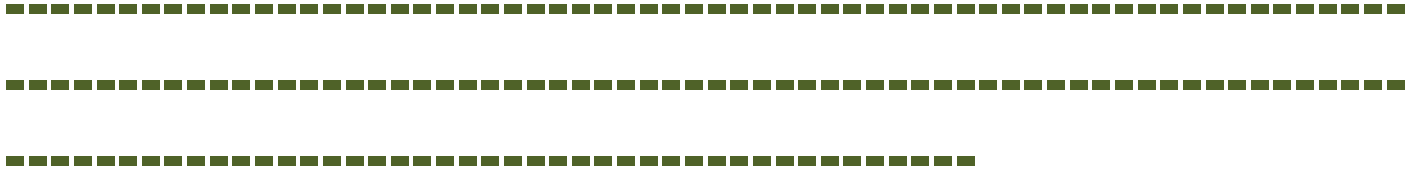
From: "Irving Kulik" <irvingkulik@rogers.com>
Subject: **CCJA News-October 21, 2009**
Date: October 21, 2009 10:52:57 AM PDT
To: <irvingkulik@rogers.com>

Register for Congress 2009 at
<http://www.ccja-acjp.ca/cong2009/en/>

CCJA- News, October 21, 2009
Nouvelles-ACJP, le 21 octobre, 2009

1. The 14th Annual BISC-MI Fall Conference
November 4, 5, 6, 2009
A partnership of Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan

and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women



2. Ottawa will expand prisons to suit tough crime laws

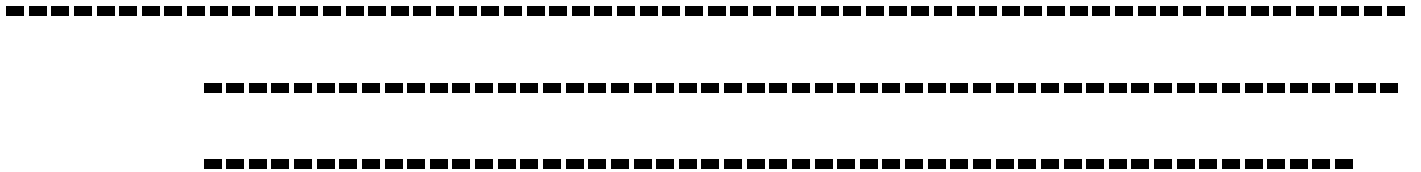
Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert, Sask. The Canadian Press

The government is leaning toward renovating prisons and building new wings as a short-term solution to anticipated influx of inmates



3. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO:	All Members of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association
WHEN:	Friday, October 30, 2009 – 5 :00 pm – 6----- :00 pm
WHERE:	Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel



4. White-collar criminals could face at least 2 years jail under new bill

White-collar criminals who bilk their victims of more than \$1 million will be imprisoned for at least two years in a bill to be tabled Wednesday in Parliament.



5. "Urban Gangs: Are we Winning?" A Seminar for Criminal Justice Professionals

Tuesday, October 27th at Inn of the Quay, New Westminster
Presenter is Dr. Robert Gordon, Director of the School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University

6. Crime down, prison boom looms

by Craig Jones & Kim Pate

If the federal government gets its way, Canadians will witness a boom in prison construction coinciding with the longest steady decline in crime rates in Canadian history. That's the consequence of the various pieces of "get tough" legislation recently passed or currently working their way through Parliament.

1. The 14th Annual BISC-MI Fall Conference

Offering a faculty of 41 experts from around the country

November 4, 5, 6, 2009

A partnership of Batterer Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

Battle Creek, Michigan

***To find out more about becoming a BISC-MI member
go to: [BISC-MI Membership](#)**

This project was supported by Grant Nos. 2006-WT-AX-K046 and 2008-TA-AX-K038 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed by program faculty and in program materials, including curriculum outlines, PowerPoint slides, handouts, contents of binders and CD-ROMs, and other program documents, are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

Opening and Introductory Remarks: Catherine Pierce, Acting Director, Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: This must-attend event will be rich with engaging presentations, anecdotal success stories, practical information and interactive sessions focused on envisioning, developing, implementing and improving coordinated community response to ending domestic violence. Our experts, from around the country, include judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, probation agents, domestic violence victim advocates, defense attorneys, and batterer intervention program staff who work in this field on a daily basis.

2. Ottawa will expand prisons to suit tough crime laws

Saskatchewan Penitentiary in Prince Albert, Sask. The Canadian Press

The government is leaning toward renovating prisons and building new wings as a short-term solution to anticipated influx of inmates

BILL CURRY

OTTAWA — From Friday's Globe and Mail Published on Friday, Oct. 16, 2009

The Conservative government has doubled the budget for prison construction and maintenance as it prepares federal institutions for an influx of inmates resulting from its suite of new crime laws. In an interview with The Globe and Mail, Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan revealed the government is leaning toward renovating existing prisons and building new wings as Ottawa's short-term approach to managing the increase.

He said cabinet will take another two or three years before deciding whether there is a need to build large new regional prisons as recommended in a 2007 advisory report - but the government already has some land in mind.

The plots are currently being used by inmates for milking cows and gathering eggs to feed their fellow

convicts. It is part of the prison-farm program the government is phasing out after more than 150 years. Since coming to power in 2006, the Harper government has introduced several justice proposals that would increase the use of mandatory minimum sentences, end house arrests and eliminate a judge's ability to credit a prisoner with two days served for every one spent in pretrial custody in calculating sentences. Mr. Van Loan said he has seen internal estimates that provide a projected range for prison population growth as a result of government legislation either passed or before Parliament. However, those numbers are a cabinet confidence and cannot be disclosed, he said.

"Each bill brings with it a different impact," Mr. Van Loan said. "But ultimately we anticipate some need for major investment."

Most of the approximately 33,000 offenders now incarcerated are the responsibility of the provinces or territories, either because they are awaiting trial or sentencing or serving sentences of less than two years. Mr. Van Loan said new minimum sentences and an end to bonuses for time spent awaiting trial would see more people serving more than two years and, as a result, ending up in one of Canada's 58 federal institutions.

"The effect of that bill [ending the two-for-one credit] is essentially a massive transfer, financially and in terms of custodial obligations, from the provinces to the federal government," he said.

Mr. Van Loan, who is responsible for the Correctional Service of Canada, said that until cabinet decides on a long-term plan, the farm-program lands will be rented out to farmers.

"It wouldn't be prudent to dispose of the land if you may have potential plans in the future to build super regional prisons," he said. "We don't know how many we will do. But it just wouldn't make a lot of sense in protecting the taxpayer's interest to unload all that land and then decide three, four years hence that you've got to get it back."

A public campaign is under way to save the prison-farm program, which teaches inmates at six institutional farms the ins and outs of agriculture. Proponents, including current prison farmers who are speaking out in the media, say the program teaches universal skills like punctuality. They also say caring for animals instills a sense of compassion.

The government says the program's \$4-million budget could be better spent elsewhere, given that less than 1 per cent of released inmates end up in agriculture. Mr. Van Loan said the public and inmates are better served by programs focused on more employable skills such as landscaping or furniture-making, adding that landing a job after prison is a key factor in avoiding a return to crime.

He denied any link between the program's end and the government's expansion plans.

The move to mandatory minimums is in response to the perception among some that Canada has a "revolving-door" justice system that goes easy on repeat offenders. The measures are supported by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, particularly in relation to anti-drug measures contained in a bill now before the Senate.

Frank Addario, president of the Criminal Lawyers' Association, says the American experience shows mandatory minimums don't work.

"The most law-and-order states in the United States have turned away from muscular sentencing and mandatory minimums on the basis that no reasonable state budget can manage the level of incarceration that those laws require," Mr. Addario said. The annual average cost of keeping a Canadian inmate incarcerated is \$93,030.

The possibility of using the farm land for prisons was first confirmed by Mr. Van Loan in a written response tabled recently in the House of Commons replying to a question from Liberal MP Mark Holland. The minister's response also revealed the annual budget for "corrections infrastructure" has grown from \$88.5-million in 2006-07 to \$195.1-million this year. It is projected to peak at \$211.6-million in fiscal year 2010-11. Mr. Van Loan has embraced the recommendations of a controversial 2007 advisory report prepared for the federal government by Rob Sampson, a former minister of corrections in Ontario's Mike Harris government. Among the report's wide-ranging recommendations was a call to create large new regional correctional facilities that would house high-, medium- and low-security prisoners in one location - though physically separated from each other.

The report said this would lead to administrative savings by sharing common services like food. While other recommendations from the 2007 report are already government policy, the government until now has been silent on the call for new prisons.

A report by prisoner-rights advocates Michael Jackson and Graham Stewart warned last month that some of the recommendations contain "draconian implications" for human rights, yet are being implemented with little public or parliamentary debate.

The Jackson-Stewart report acknowledged the need for upgrades to aging facilities, but said the call for regional complexes was "ill advised" and not well thought out.

PRISON NUMBERS

Offenders serving a sentence of less than two years, as well as adults held in custody while awaiting trial or sentencing (known as remand), are the responsibility of provinces and territories. Ottawa is responsible for the detention of offenders serving two years or more.

Provincial custody

- In remand: 12,888
- Serving sentences: 9,750

Federal custody

- Serving sentences: 13,304

Incarceration rates

2007/08

- Canada: 117 people in custody for every 100,000 (including youth)
- United States: 762 in custody per 100,000 (not including youth)

Annual budget for prison infrastructure

- 2005-06 \$88.6-million
- 2007-08 \$103.1-million
- 2008-09 \$151-million
- 2009-10 \$195.1-million
- 2010-11 \$211.6-million
- 2011-12 \$163.2-million
- 2012-13 \$113.1-million

Farewell to the farms

After more than 150 years, Ottawa is shutting down the Prison Farm Program, which teaches inmates to take care of animals and provides products to the prison population. The government notes that of 25,000 offenders released over the last five years, less than 1 per cent found work in agriculture.

Sources: Responses tabled in the House; Statistics Canada



3. NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO: All Members of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association

OBJECT: Annual General Meeting

WHEN: Friday, October 30, 2009 – 5 :00 pm – 6 :00 pm

WHERE: Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel
1919 Upper Water Street
Room: to be determined
Halifax, Nova Scotia - Tel: (902) 421-6760

Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (October 17, 2008)
3. President's Report
4. Executive Director's Report
5. Audited Financial Statements to March 31, 2009
6. Appointment of Auditors for 2009-2010
7. Report of the Chair of the Nominating Committee
8. Adjournment

NOTE: If you want to receive the documents mentioned in the agenda, please contact us:

-
by e-mail: ccja@bellnet.ca
by phone: (613) 725-3715 or
by fax: (613) 725-3720

AVIS DE CONVOCATION - ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

À: Tous les membres de l'Association canadienne de justice pénale

OBJET: Assemblée générale annuelle

QUAND: Le vendredi 30 octobre 2009 -- 17h -- 18h

OÙ: Hôtel Marriott Harbourfront
191 rue Upper Water
Halifax, N.-É.
Salle: À déterminer
Tel: (902) 421-6760

Ordre du jour

1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
2. Adoption du procès verbal de la dernière Assemblée générale annuelle du 17 octobre 2008
3. Rapport de la Présidente
4. Rapport du Directeur général
5. Rapports financiers vérifiés au 31 mars 2009
6. Choix des vérificateurs pour 2009-2010
7. Rapport du Président du Comité des candidatures
8. Clôture de l'Assemblée

NOTE: Si vous désirez recevoir les documents ci-haut mentionnés à l'ordre du jour, veuillez nous contacter:

par courriel: ccja-acjp@rogers.com
par téléphone: 613-725-3715
· par télécopieur: 613-725-3720

4. White-collar criminals could face at least 2 years jail under new bill

By Janice Tibbetts, Canwest News Service ,October 20, 2009

White-collar criminals who bilk their victims of more than \$1 million will be imprisoned for at least two years in a bill to be tabled Wednesday in Parliament.

Photograph by: Getty Creative Images, Getty Creative Images

OTTAWA — White-collar criminals who bilk their victims of more than \$1 million will be imprisoned for at least two years in a bill to be tabled Wednesday in Parliament.

Judges would also be instructed to force offenders to make restitution to their victims in all fraud cases.

"Fraud can have a devastating impact on the lives of victims, including feelings of humiliation for having been deceived into voluntarily handing over their life savings," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said.

"This can be every bit as devastating as a physical assault."

He outlined his proposals at a news conference in Ottawa, with victims at his side.

The bill would also add aggravating factors for judges to consider in sentencing fraudsters, including the impact on victims, and the degree of planning that went into the crime.

Nicholson has been promising legislation for months, following intense lobbying from victims' groups.

"I've made it clear there will be mandatory prison time for people who commit serious fraud in this country," Nicholson told Canwest News Service and Global National in an earlier interview.

"I have been meeting with victims over the last number of weeks, and there are some heartbreaking stories. People tell you how they've lost their life savings, how they've been taken advantage of by fraudsters. We're seeing more of it, I believe, because of the global economic downturn."

Nicholson first promised tougher laws during the summer, amid intense lobbying from investors who allegedly lost their savings by entrusting them to Montreal money manager Earl Jones.

The financial consultant faces criminal charges and police allege he scammed 150 investors of more than \$50 million. Jones is accused of running a Ponzi scheme, which uses money from new clients to pay old ones.

Also, last month, the problem of Ponzi schemes received heightened attention when RCMP in Alberta charged two men with fraudulently raising more than \$100 million from unsuspecting investors.

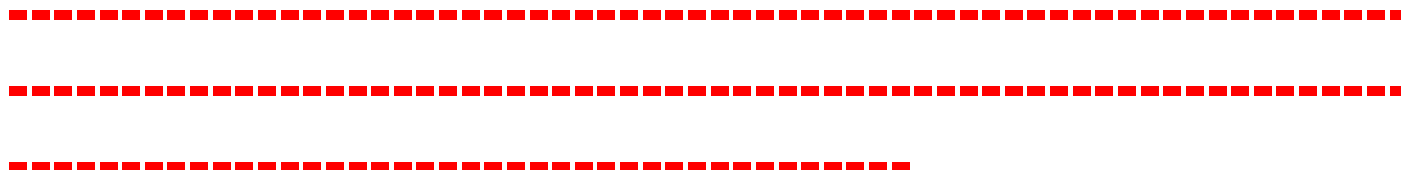
Imposing automatic prison terms will eliminate discretion for judges to sentence as they see fit — a common element of law-and-order initiatives of the Conservative government.

The new federal measures will likely have wide opposition support, and Nicholson said he hopes the bill will proceed swiftly.

Serge Menard, the Bloc Quebecois justice critic, introduced a private member's bill last month that would abolish accelerated parole for "criminels en cravate" — white-collar criminals.

The Bloc has cited the case of financier Vincent Lacroix, who was sentenced this month to 13 years in prison for his role in defrauding more than 9,200 victims out of about \$100 million. He pleaded guilty to 200 charges.

© Copyright (c) Canwest News Service



5. “Urban Gangs: Are we Winning?” A Seminar for Criminal Justice Professionals

Tuesday, October 27th at Inn of the Quay, New Westminster
Presenter is Dr. Robert Gordon, Director of the School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University
6:00 pm, complementary appetizers. No-host bar.
6:30 pm Seminar

The BCCJA invites you to a seminar on one of the most burning criminal justice issues in the lower mainland.

The situation in BC with organized criminals and "gang" affiliation has drawn the attention of the rest of Canada, and other countries too. We have been faced with a marked increase in violent criminal activity of the highest order: murder. This year alone, over 50 murders have been attributed to organized criminals vying for the profits of crime. There is pride to be taken in the gains to date through a variety of creative law enforcement strategies, but for professionals there are always questions to be asked and new collaborative solutions to be found in dealing with this very serious problem. We need to know more about how B.C. has come to having some of the most violent cities in Canada. We need to talk about how we can strategize successful responses to this level of criminal activity.

The British Columbia Criminal Justice Association (BCCJA) has invited Dr. Robert Gordon, Director of the Simon Fraser University School of Criminology to present on B.C.'s response to criminal gang activity to date including an examination of comparative models in responding to this highly complex phenomenon. The intent also is to have a broad exchange of views and ideas between experienced police, crown and defence, courts and corrections professionals on this topic. That means you and your colleagues. We look forward to seeing you there!!

The BCCJA is an organization of criminal justice and related professionals which has been fostering debate, dialogue, providing advocacy and advancing current and best practices since 1919. BCCJA is a member of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association. For more, click on our website at <http://www.bccja.com>.

6. Crime down, prison boom looms

by Craig Jones & Kim Pate

Published in the Ottawa Citizen, October 19, 2009

If the federal government gets its way, Canadians will witness a boom in prison construction coinciding with the longest steady decline in crime rates in Canadian history. That's the consequence of the various pieces of "get tough" legislation recently passed or currently working their way through Parliament.

Consider this: the introduction of mandatory minimum sentences for "serious drug crimes" in the National Anti-Drug Strategy plus the limiting of judicial discretion in regard to credit for time served in pre-trial detention is projected by Statistics Canada to grow the rate of incarceration by as much as 10 per cent.

The government claims that ending two-for-one credit for pre-trial detention will alleviate the overcrowding crisis in provincial detention centres by encouraging more guilty pleas and introducing "truth in sentencing." The resulting surge in Canada's rate of incarceration, currently hovering around 149 per 100,000 population, would require roughly 3,000 new beds for men and about 10 to 15 per cent of that number for women.

So what? Bad people go to jail, right? It should be that simple, but it's not.

When governments "crack down," the American evidence shows that they quickly catch the worst of the worst before reaching into the pool of the non-violent – people who might represent a threat to themselves but are little risk to their communities.

The worst crime for most of these people is either that they are racial minorities (aboriginals will be particularly hard hit) or that they started falling through the cracks in elementary school and carry the burden of various learning and cognitive challenges, including ADD, acquired brain disorders, ADHD, fetal alcohol syndrome, depression, trauma and a whole alphabet soup of psychiatric and psychological syndromes.

The result is prisons swollen with greater numbers of the non-violent, mentally ill, and poor and racialized minorities.

Currently, approximately 10 per cent of the federal prison population is double-bunked. Prison crowding undermines the success of treatment and degrades the working conditions of staff, encouraging higher rates of staff turnover and poorer treatment outcomes for prisoners. Most non-violent prisoners can be more effectively, humanely and economically treated in the community than they can in prison, and the government has the research to prove this.

Community supervision costs roughly \$23,500 a year per person compared with approximately \$101,000 a year per person on average across all security levels to keep a man in prison, and \$185,000 a year per woman.

Then there's the issue of where to put them. Current infrastructure is at or over capacity. The passage of Bill C-25 will require temporary housing in the short term, but it's the long term that ought to concern Canadians – for the only land that the federal government can start building on quickly is the prison farms.

Some of the best farmland in Canada could be swallowed up by super-max prisons based on the American model. That is the vision endorsed by the "independent panel" commissioned by the government and chaired by the former minister of corrections for the province of Ontario, Rob Sampson.

So let's connect the dots. The crime rate has been declining for 26 years – those are the government's numbers – but the same government wants to build more prisons at a cost to taxpayers of billions of dollars.

Who benefits? In the U.S. case, private prison contractors and correctional officer unions. Everyone else loses: education, social assistance and health care.

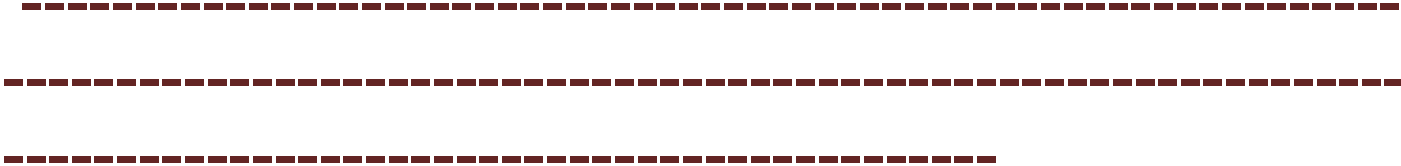
Does prison building buy safer communities? Not in the United States. Money spent on increased imprisonment and longer, harsher sentences is money wasted, because more prisons do not increase community safety – and there is ample evidence that prisons create and reinforce criminal attitudes and predispositions.

If more prisons resulted in less crime, the United States would be the safest place in the world.

Canada does not need to grow its rate of incarceration, particularly in a context of declining crime rates. We do not need to "get tough," but we do need to "get smart."

Craig Jones is the executive director of the John Howard Society of Canada.

Kim Pate is the executive director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies.



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