

(Un)mapping Prison Expansion in Canada: The Relationship Between Penal 'Reform' and Penal Infrastructure Initiatives

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FEDERAL PRISON CONSTRUCTION (SHORT-TERM)

Additions = 34

Net Capacity Gain = 2,552 beds

Construction Costs = \$601 million

* Long-term Plan Still to be Submitted

PRIMARY DRIVERS

'Truth in Sentencing'

Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Restrictions to Parole

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What is the scope of provincial-territorial prison capacity expansion?

What are the justifications marshalled in support of the establishment of new penal infrastructure?

DATA COLLECTION PHASES

Online Content Search
(February 2009)

Informal Information Requests
(February 2009)

Formal Information Requests
(March – December 2009)

Informal Information Requests
(February 2010 / May 2010 /
February 2011 / September 2011)

PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL PRISON CONSTRUCTION

New Prisons = 22

Additions = 17

Net Capacity Gain = 6,320 beds

Construction Costs = \$3.4 billion

PRIMARY DRIVERS

Remand Demand

A 'Changing' Prisoner Population

Aging and 'Outmoded' Institutions

**“Building remand centres is expensive and resourcing a bad trend
[and] is paving a road we shouldn't be on”**

Changing Face of Corrections Task Force Report, 2009, page 15.

**REMAND DEMAND
(NOT A PROBLEM OF SUPPLY)**

Decrease in Bail / Increase in Conditions
Increased Court Wait Times
Little Appetite for Capping

**A 'CHANGING' PRISONER PROFILE
(THE PRISON AS PANACEA)**

Identified Mental Health Issues
Identified Substance Abuse Issues
More Criminalized Women
More Youth Identified as Gang Members

**AGING AND 'OUTMODED' INSTITUTIONS
(IT'S THE BUILDING NOT THE IDEA)**

Risks to Institutional Security
Limited Space for Programming
Inefficient Operations

MORE EFFECTIVE, LESS COSTLY, MORE HUMANE?

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT AS ALTERNATIVE?

STEP 1:

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURES AND NEEDS

STEP 2:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

STEP 3:

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

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PITFALLS

Entrenchment of Prisons
Intensification of Social Control
Proliferation of Professionals
Formalization of the Informal

“WIDER, STRONGER AND DIFFERENT NETS”

“BUSINESS AS USUAL”

(Cohen, 1985, pp. 38-39)