



Canadian Friends Service Committee E-Newsletter

QUAKERS
Canadian Friends Service Committee

Incarceration costs much more than effective alternatives. It also fails to reduce recidivism, why does the carceral system persist? Who benefits?

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Executive Summary

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94.1% went to prisons, reoffending and ending.

5.9% went to community supervision and support.

CORPORATE PROFIT OVER PUBLIC WELFARE
From January 2012 through November 2016, Correctional Service Canada generated over 13 financial priority contracts totaling over \$1.2 billion.

McEwan Canada Corporation received \$120 million for electronic surveillance and other technological services.

Parade Technologies received \$14.2 million for surveillance services.

THE COST OF INCARCERATION

The average cost of incarcerating one person in 2017 was \$108,000 per year (\$209,000 for women).

The average cost of supporting an individual in the community in 2017 was \$18,819 per year.

SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY

Indigenous people make up about 1% of Canada's total population.

Approx 60% of federally incarcerated individuals are Indigenous.

Over 60% of federally incarcerated women are Indigenous.

DECREASE IN CRIME, NOT IN INCARCERATION

Despite trends in declining crime rates, incarceration in Canada remains high relative to other nations, with significant health, social, and reintegration challenges.

EXPLOITED LABOUR MARKET AS REHABILITATION

OSIRIS is a prison labour program run by Correctional Service Canada. It is marketed as rehabilitation but in reality has proven to provide and entrench an exploitation.

Other commonwealth models for:
- Worker-owned enterprises
- Social enterprises
- Public-private partnerships
- Public-private partnerships with social enterprise

Prison profits of \$1.2 billion

Other commonwealth models for:
- Labour and private sector
- Public-private partnerships
- Public-private partnerships with social enterprise

Is this rehabilitation, or a system that benefits from unregulated labour?

New executive summary and infographic explain who profits from Canada's prisons

Incarceration costs much more than effective alternatives. It also fails to reduce reoffending. So then why does the carceral system persist? Who benefits? Check out our [new brief Executive Summary](#) for highlights from our research.

We also made an infographic with key findings from the report so you can:

[Share it on Facebook.](#)

[Share it on Instagram.](#)



Submission to pre-budget consultation

Our priorities for Canada's federal budget

Our work in Ottawa continues to include submitting recommendations to Canada's budget consultations. Here's what we called for [in our most recent submission](#).

Recommendation 1 (peace)

- 1.a) Reconsider spending cuts to Global Affairs Canada, increase diplomatic capacity, and strengthen Canadian peacebuilding infrastructure.
- 1.b) Expand traditional concepts of 'security,' by considering the range of activities that permits peacekeeping, infrastructure, and humanitarian expenditures to be defence commitments.
- 1.c) Cancel the purchase of the F-35 fighter jets.
- 1.d) Develop a federal civilian force that expands disaster relief capacity.
- 1.e) Establish a non-partisan training program for MPs in compassionate communication and conflict resolution.

Recommendation 2 (Indigenous Peoples' human rights)

- 2.a) Invest at least \$30 million for advancing rights-based discussions with rights-holders to ensure Indigenous Peoples can fully participate in consultation and cooperation processes.
- 2.b) As mandated in Shared Priority 19, establish a properly funded, independent, and permanent Indigenous Peoples' human rights monitoring mechanism in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.
- 2.c) Reverse programmed cuts to ISC and CIRNAC.
- 2.d) Reintroduce Bill C-61, *An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater, and related infrastructure on First Nations lands*.
- 2.d) Plan and develop a strategy for the adoption and full implementation of the *UN Declaration Act* across all jurisdictions in Canada.

Recommendation 3 (transformative justice)

- 3.a) Adopt federal legislation on a Guaranteed Basic Livable Income and allocate \$100 million for a federal-provincial GLBI demonstration project in Prince Edward Island.
- 3.b) Reallocate or match a minimum of 5% of criminal justice spending to social supports.
- 3.c) Increase funding (from 2025 levels) to Correctional Interventions and in particular

Community Supervision.

3.d) Direct one third of the CSC budget to Indigenous-led justice approaches and restorative justice.

3.e) Include the right to be informed about restorative justice programs in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*.



Join Grassy Narrows River Run

If you're in Toronto consider making a plan to join us again this year at the Grassy Narrows River Run in September. If you're not in Toronto, find other ways to take action:

<https://FreeGrassy.net>



CFSC has three program areas: peace, Indigenous Peoples' human rights, and transformative justice. A GLBI in Canada would positively impact each program area.

"Because economic behavior is so often excluded by policy from the zone of right relationship, it is a primary area of injustice, conflict, violence, and war."
—Keith Helmuth⁵

"Income is the most significant determinant for the health of an individual or community... It will take generations to restore our nations to the levels of health and prosperity that existed before residential schools and colonization, even with a guaranteed basic income. But it will reduce the hardships people face, and bring First Nations to the starting line."
—Max FineDay, Sweetgrass First Nation⁶

"Canadian prisons and jails are receptacles for people who have been failed by other systems."
—Kim Pate

1. Beelin, N., Macdonald, D. and Wilson, D. (2019, June 24). Towards Justice: Tackling Indigenous Child Poverty in Canada. Assembly of First Nations and The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. https://www.afn.ca/sites/default/files/2019/07/justice_report_fin_al_english_june26-2019.pdf

2. Pate, K. (2004, June). Beyond the Resist: GBI & Bill S-213. How GBI Benefits and Supports Indigenous Communities & People. https://www.afn.ca/sites/default/files/2019/07/justice_report_fin_al_english_june26-2019.pdf

3. Zinger, I. (2023, November). Ten Years since Spirit Makers: A Roadmap for the Reform of Indigenous Corrections in Canada. Office of the Correctional Investigator, Public Safety Canada.

4. Government of Canada. (2021, November 5). Ex-prisoner Helps Forge New Path for Others at Risk of Homelessness. National Housing Strategy. https://www.afn.ca/sites/default/files/2019/07/justice_report_fin_al_english_june26-2019.pdf

5. Helmuth, K. (2008). The Quaker Peace Testimony, Economics and the Common Good. Quaker Institute for the Future.

6. Broad, G., and Neelissen-Smith, J. (2007) GBI and First Nations: Cautions for Implementation. Northern Policy Institute.

GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (GLBI)

From the perspective of CFSC's three program areas

Peace

Quakers in Canada define peace at three different levels: inner, interpersonal, and structural. When we consider structural peace, we're forced to look at the root causes of violence, including institutional violence. CFSC sees justice and opportunities as interconnected elements central to a culture of peacemaking. A GLBI framework holds the potential to address both the structural inequality in Canada (as a form of justice), and provide the opportunity many need to find new and meaningful ways to engage with their community. Both of these contribute towards a more peaceful society.

Quakers believe in the inherent value of each individual, which is described as 'that of God/Light in everyone.' A GLBI would act as a moral imperative that allows us to recognize the worth of each individual, without assessing that worth based on their physical contributions to society.

Indigenous Peoples' human rights

Indigenous Peoples are over-represented in poverty statistics, homelessness, and incarceration rates, while only making up 5% of the population. Child poverty rates have fallen since 2015 in Canada, but 50% of Indigenous children both on and off reserve experience poverty.¹ Call for Justice 4.5 from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls is for a "guaranteed annual livable income for all Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples, to meet all their social and economic needs."

A GLBI, designed and implemented in consultation, cooperation, and with the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples could be a vehicle through which Indigenous Peoples' self-determination is enhanced. It could also represent an investment by Canada in repairing systemic economic injustice, while advancing reconciliation, reducing harm, and moving forward together.²

Transformative justice

Canada's Correctional Investigator, Ivan Zinger, has stated that the disproportionate and growing number of incarcerated Indigenous people is Canada's most pressing human rights issue and needs to be urgently addressed.³

The leading risk factor for incarceration and/or contact with the legal system is poverty. A GLBI would be a transformational approach to preventing incarceration in the first place and would also constitute a solution for those exiting the carceral system as income and housing are often barriers to successful reintegration. Data shows that 85.5% of those who were homeless before being incarcerated anticipated being homeless again upon discharge.⁴ With no funds and prospects for housing, employment, etc. individuals can be put in a position where they breach their parole conditions, resulting in their return to prison. A GLBI would help to address this, serving as an important step in the process of dismantling inequities.



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Featured resource: *Guaranteed Livable Basic Income from the perspective of CFSC's three program areas*

This factsheet (PDF) explains in a single page how Canada adopting a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income would positively impact all three of CFSC's program areas—peace, Indigenous Peoples' human rights, and transformative justice.

