



MSCM
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries



MSCM has moved!

MSCM and **MSCM-CoSA Project Division** have moved their offices effective May 1, 2013. Our new contact information is:

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THE SOU'WESTER

MONTREAL-SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

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GUARDS LACK "UNDERSTANDING"

HUMAN RESPECT FOR INMATES

Canada's prison guards are essentially being left to their own devices when it comes to treating inmates with basic human respect, according to an internal survey report obtained by The Canadian Press.

The "ethical climate survey" of Correctional Service Canada staff included a question about "treating offenders with respect as human beings."

However, responses to the question from the survey's 2,200 participants were dropped from the final report because of a "lack of unanimity."

"Most probably, the (corrections) community does not share a common understanding nor expectations regarding respect toward offenders," the report states. "Apparently social values around respect toward offenders have not been encouraged within CSC to the same extent as values of respect toward the organization and co-workers—leaving this aspect to each individual's discretion."

The document says without proper training, employees rely on "what is deeply ingrained in their beliefs" to mould how they treat offenders.

The report's analysis notes several respondents brought up concerns about staff who abused their power, a problem it says could be tackled through workshops focused on values and ethical issues.



The findings open a window on the mindset of correctional officials at a time when a coroner's inquest into the 2007 prison death of troubled teenager Ashley Smith has exposed how a mix of personal action and bureaucratic procedure shape treatment of the incarcerated. Smith choked herself to

death inside her segregation cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ontario., while guards, ordered not to intervene, stood watch outside.

Kim Pate, executive director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, said the lack of agreement from staff on humane treatment should serve as a shot across the bow of prison authorities. "It should be a significant wake-up call to Correctional Service Canada, and instead of burying it or ignoring it and taking it out of the survey some sort of concerted effort to address this should be in order."

"The survey results raise important issues for employees, supervisors and senior managers across the Correctional Service of Canada and will inform actions at all levels," corrections spokeswoman "Sara Parkes said.

Source: The Canadian Press

It is harder to change human nature than to change rivers and mountains.

DRAMATIC RISE IN NUMBER OF JAILED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PRISON SYSTEM NEGLECTS ABORIGINALS

Canada's prison system continues to fail indigenous people, according to a scathing new report from the country's prison watchdog.

The number of aboriginal people behind bars has increased 43% in the past 5 years, correctional investigator Howard Sapers said.

His special report, tabled in Parliament in March, says federal programs aimed at supporting aboriginal inmates have been inadequate, and the prison system perpetuates conditions of disadvantages for indigenous people.

"If I were releasing a report card on aboriginal corrections today, it would be filled with failing grades, Sapers told a news conference, adding that the disproportionate number of aboriginal people in prisons 'continues to cloud Canada's domestic human rights record.'

First Nations, Inuit and Métis people now make up 23% of Canada's total inmate population, despite being just 4% of the overall population, Sapers said.

Indigenous women are even more overrepresented in prison: in 2010-11, they accounted for almost 1/3 of all federally incarcerated women, an increase of more than 85% over the last decade.

The report also found aboriginal offenders are more likely to spend longer portions of their sentences behind bars, and are more prone to self-mutilation while incarcerated.

"Despite years of efforts, things are not getting better," Sapers said. "Given these alarming and growing

numbers, programs and options for the care, custody and treatment of aboriginal inmates must become a significant priority for the CSC.

Sapers' report makes 10 recommendations, including that CSC should create the position of deputy commissioner for aboriginal corrections, and should expand staff training to include aboriginal history and culture.

Asked about the report in question period in the House of Commons, Stephen Harper said the government takes its responsibility to protect Canadian society seriously. "It's important to note that prisoners are individuals who were found guilty of crimes by independent courts, and it's essential for society to act," Harper said. "The reality is that unfortunately aboriginals are more often victims of violent crime than other Canadians."

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, said the government has taken "a balanced approach," investing in crime-prevention programs over the last 7 years. The Corrections and Conditional Release Act, the law that governs correctional practice in Canada, contains specific provisions for dealing with aboriginal inmates.

But Sapers found "serious gaps between the law and practice." More than 20 years after the act, there has been no progress in closing the large gaps in correctional outcomes between aboriginal and non-aboriginal inmates, he said.

For example, Section 81 of the law gives the government the capacity to establish healing lodges through agreements

with aboriginal communities. But there are only 4 such agreements in Canada, leading to a capacity of 68 beds in 4 lodges.

Nearly 600 inmates expressed an interest in a Section 81 transfer in 2011, but the lodges remain under-used and under-funded the report said. The community-run healing lodges are funded at a fraction of the rate of similar CSC-run lodges, which are mostly operated as minimum-security prisons, the report said.

The report recommends negotiating permanent "at-parity" funding levels for existing and future healing lodges, and an increase in the number of bed spaces.

The healing lodges feature culturally relevant programming and take a holistic approach to healing and restoring balance, said Christy Big Canoe, legal director at Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto.

"This is law that's been around for 20 years," she said. "The law actually sets out what they should be doing. It's supposed to be resourced by CSC and it's not."

The Assembly of First Nations said the best strategy to reduce incarceration rates for aboriginals is to increase investments in education. "An investment in nurturing the self-esteem, ambition and dreams of our children and youth will pay the greatest dividends and cost significantly less than having them end up in the justice system," AFN Alberta Regional Chief, Cameron Alexis said in the statement.

Source: Postmedia News

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

Mark Twain

IN PERSON PROFILE

The Sou'Wester was pleased to sit down with Peter Huish, Community Chaplain and Founder of **MSCM**, to discuss recent events within our community.

Q. Thank you Peter. Last Fall we learned that all Federal part-time prison chaplains' contracts which terminated on 31 March 2013 would not be renewed. There have been letter-writing campaigns, human rights advocacy and online petitions, to no avail. What is the latest news?

A. Yes that is true. However, there is a current valid contract between the Anglican Diocese of Montreal and the Correctional Service Canada (CSC) for Chaplaincy services that continues for another year with an option for an additional year. Under the contract, three of us, Holly, Tim and myself continue to work as part-time prison chaplains in Quebec institutions—Drummond and Cowansville Institutions and Federal Training Centre.

It is particularly important that **MSCM** continues to have access to the Federal Training Centre, a minimum security and releasing institution, and along with that, the two other releasing institutions, Montée St. François and Saint Anne des Plaines, to make contact with our prospective beneficiaries and to promote our services. This additional year will give us time to plan for the continuance of that.

Also, some 4-5 other part-time chaplains, of minority faith traditions in British Columbia, were re-hired by CSC, following court proceedings, as temporary, casual employees which of course, diminishes their autonomy.

Part-time prison chaplaincy as we have known it no longer exists in Canada.

Q. 2013 did not start well for **MSCM**. How have you been able to cope and help the **MSCM** community maintain its focus and commitment after such a serious upheaval?

A. It has been the greatest challenge we have known in some 14 years in this work. Everyone has felt it, often heavily, and for me, somehow at the centre of it, it has been tiring—being always on call, always accountable. I am grateful for the present, less demanding time, being able to catch our breath after the horror we experienced in January, formally saying goodbye to Chris as we joined in celebrating what he added to our community, and now having moved on to a new office. We have worked together diligently this last couple of months, to review and assess that which we do, leading to a re-affirmation of its value and importance to each of us and to the wider community. Our new office is taking on significance as a sign of our own renewal and moving forward into a new chapter of our story.

Q. Will Fulford Hall still be available for our **Open Door** meetings on Tuesday evenings?

A. Over the years at Fulford Hall, **Open Door** has taken on quite a profile and so it was not surprising that in the wake of the events of January, questions were asked about this. It is very gratifying that an essentially unanimous vote at the Diocesan Council supported the continuing hospitality by the Diocese and the Cathedral for our regular **Open Door** Tuesday evening meetings—hospitality which we have enjoyed for some 7 years. We are grateful for this, and we are pleased also for the Church as it re-affirms its commitment to Gospel hospitality—the linking of Fulford Hall and **Open Door** is good for us all.

Q. **MSCM** and **MSCM-CoSA Project** have moved to a new location giving us a new lease on life. Looking forward, how do you see us using our new offices?

A. All of our activities are now under one roof, with the exception of **Open Door** as noted earlier. Our new location is a safe and private space, necessary for the sensitive work in which we are involved. With the special features included in our new space that will enhance our work, we are looking forward to as many meetings as possible on our terrace during the summer months.



Q. Do you have any words of wisdom for our readers in light of all the recent events?

A. After almost 14 years of our life and work in the community, **MSCM** was truly tested these last few months. Our having come through this period with hope and renewed confidence shows that we are indeed blessed in the vocation we have been given. We owe one another thanks and congratulations for the extraordinary strength and encouragement that has been shared among us.

There is a new challenge on the horizon. Arrangements for funding of community chaplaincy across Canada is now currently under review and this will further test our resolve to keep our focus and continue this work. It will be helpful to look back at our beginnings 14 years ago when there was no funding. We grew from a wish and a prayer and a strong commitment to each other, and will need to be in touch with that spirit anew as this next challenge develops.



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*"Great things
are not done by impulse,
but by a series
of small things
brought together."*

George Eliot

**Donations of time
and service are
also welcome.
We are especially
looking for volunteers
who would be
interested in
escorting.**

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our website:
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THE OPEN DOOR

Friends are made
New bonds are formed
When you walk through the open door
Young and old we come
From everywhere under the sun
From every experience of life
Our paths intersecting
Our truths reinforcing
Our words encouraging
The mystery of our lives related
The richness of our loves celebrated
The other side of the open door.

There's talk of hope through the open door
Dreams often crushed but long matured
Are given wings again
Old barriers thrust aside
And hopes long denied
Find voice again
When you meet at the open door.

There's a peace that's lived through
the open door
Where there's been harm and hurt
And anger and strife
And life been scarred and violated
Acceptance and forgiveness
wash out the stain
Love flows again
When we share behind the open door.

There's many a laugh through the open door
A greeting given, a name spoken
An old friend welcomed home
Good memories revived
Where the coffee's strong and the snacks
well served
Hearts breathe again
Souls revive again
You can carry on again
Having walked through the open door.

There's things to be learned at the open door
A passion shared
A hobby aired
Bread making, skate boarding
Life in the North country
Our lives rich in variety
Our cares, our piety
All mingle at the open door.

There's a face missing at the open door
A fear awakens, dark thoughts revive
Concern written on every face
But the pain is shared
No prayer un-spared
No name forgotten
Once you've walked through the open door.

Lord, make my heart an open door.

Thanks to Pam Dillon

PLEASE SUPPORT MSCM

MSCM is a volunteer organization welcoming ex-offenders back to the community by supporting them in their social, spiritual, social, emotional and practical needs. We foster restoration and accountability and attend to the needs of all those affected by crime.

MSCM has relied upon support from the Community Chaplaincy of Montreal (Aumônerie de Communautaire de Montréal) and individual donors like you. The stigma associated with offenders brings financial and other challenges with it. Your contribution helps.

I support *MSCM* and their programs and am enclosing a donation of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

*Note: Cheques less than \$50 should be made payable to **MSCM**.*

Cheques greater than \$50 should be made payable to:

Anglican Diocese of Montreal, memo: MSCM.

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$50 or greater.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E:mail: _____

JUSTICE SPENDING UP

AS CRIME RATES FALL

The Harper government said it makes 'no apologies' for getting tough on crime following the release of a watchdog report that showed criminal justice spending climbing over the last decade, even as the crime rate fell.

The spending increases are most evident after 2006 when the Conservatives took power. The opposition pounced on the report, saying it shows the government's tough-on-crime agenda is out-of-step with reality and has been unfair to the provinces, who bear the brunt of the rising costs.

NDP public safety critic, Randall Garrison said boosting criminal justice expenditures in the face of declining crime rates showed the Conservatives were "poor fiscal managers of the public safety system."

The trend continued in March, he said, citing the introduction of legislation that would impose new mandatory penalties for those convicted of contraband tobacco trafficking and smuggling.

"Since we've come to office, we've introduced 30 pieces of legislation aimed at keeping our streets and communities safe," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said. "The cost of crime, for the most part, is borne by victims."

Since 2002, per capita spending on criminal justice in Canada climbed 23% even as the crime rate fell by the same amount, the report said. It found that \$20.3 billion was spent on criminal justice in the last fiscal year—about the same as national defence. The bulk of the spending—about 73%—

was by the provinces and territories

When expressed in terms of percentage of nominal GDP, criminal justice spending was actually trending downward from 2002 to 2006, but steadily increased under the Harper government.

The report found that provincial police spending rose \$2.3 billion over the last decade, while provincial court spending went up \$800 million.

On the federal side, corrections spending climbed \$700 million, while police spending went up \$600 million. The Conservatives have been pushing a tough-on-crime agenda since coming into power, including mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes.

Thanks to the Harper government, Canada's criminal justice system has turned into big business.

Source: Postmedia News

"Every closed eye is not sleeping, and every open eye is not seeing."

Bill Cosby

OFFICIALS TOLD

TRAIN INMATES FOR RELEVANT JOBS

With a sharp nudge from their political bosses, federal corrections officials are retooling a jobs-training program for inmates to make sure the skills they acquire are more in line with what today's employers are looking for.

They're also looking to trot out more 'good news stories' about inmates who've gone through the program in the hopes of winning over employers who may be afraid to hire ex-cons, documents show.

The CORCAN training program needs to 'refocus its strategy' and provide more training that is 'relevant to

today's economy," Public Safety Minister Vic Toews wrote in his May letter to Don Head, commissioner of the Correctional Service Canada. Inmates' transition from the jail cell to the job market should be "seamless," Toews said.

Toews's letter stemmed from a critical assessment of CORCAN by Public Safety Department staff, who found that much of the new training offered to inmates was preparing them for the "jobs of yesterday, or for non-existent jobs."

"Having five women cutting and sewing pillowcases is no more productive in terms of

effective reintegration than the former farm operations," said a memo, referring to a prison agricultural program that Toews scrapped a few years ago.

About 4,000 federal inmates receive training each year under CORCAN. Some offenders are involved in the building of ergonomic office chairs, cabinets, modular classrooms and jail bunk beds. Others make inmate clothes and bedding, Coast Guard uniforms, shower curtains and drapes.

Sales of CORCAN's goods and services—typically to federal departments—generated about \$60 million in revenue in 2010-2011.

"When in doubt, tell the truth"

Mark Twain



M S C M
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

*"To speak ill of others
is a
dishonest way
of praising ourselves."*

Will Durant

HORMONE LEVELS HELP US UNDERSTAND SEXUAL RE-OFFENDERS

Researchers are helping sketch out a hormonal profile of sex offenders who re-offend.

A group of researchers at the Royal Ottawa Hospital recently published a study in the Journal of Psychiatry and the Law that relates the levels of two hormones with criminal recidivism.

The study found that levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) were related to incidence of re-offending. While the study stops short of providing a causal effect, it does provide a step forward in an area of science little understood yet that stands to offer clearly important benefits, in terms of community safety.

The study has been decades in the making. John Bradford clinical director of the Forensic Treatment Unit of the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, started a sexual behavior clinic there 33 years ago. By now, data has been recorded from almost 5,000 patients who have passed through its doors.

The study looks at 771 men from ages 18 to 78 who

were assessed at the clinic between 1982 and 1996. All had been convicted of a sexual offence.

Among the subjects, 36% were classified as "intra-familial offenders against children," 24% were "extra-familial offenders against children," 22% were exhibitionists, 9% were rapists of adult women and 8% were offenders against "heterogeneous victim types."

Using the Canadian Police Information Centre, the research team kept track of those men after they returned to live in the community, to see which, and how many, re-offended.

The follow-up period ranged from 1 to 20 years, with a mean of 11 years. Over that period, the percentage of the men who re-offended sexually and violently were 18 and 28% respectively.

The study found the hormone levels for LH and FSH were related to recidivism and suggested they were better predictors of it than testosterone, which was a surprising result.

One hope is that the findings could eventually

point toward the discovery of genes that play a role in criminal sexual behavior.

At the same time, Bradford cautions the study is only one step on a very long road toward understanding the relationship between the hormones and always-complicated human behavior. The brain, he says, is incredibly hard to understand.

"There are 38 billion brain cells, for example, and they are all interconnected in many ways. It's more than the greatest supercomputer you'd ever imagine."

An independent commentary on the study, which was also published by the journal, praised the study as a 'welcome relief for those of us who value solid research in a difficult area so often dominated by salespeople, moralizers and zealots.'

For Bradford, the study was a chance to let the information he started compiling so long ago provide data crucial for such studies.

"A greater understanding of the hormonal causes of sexual offending and recidivism is very important to protect the public," he said. "And particularly the vulnerable in the public, the women and children."

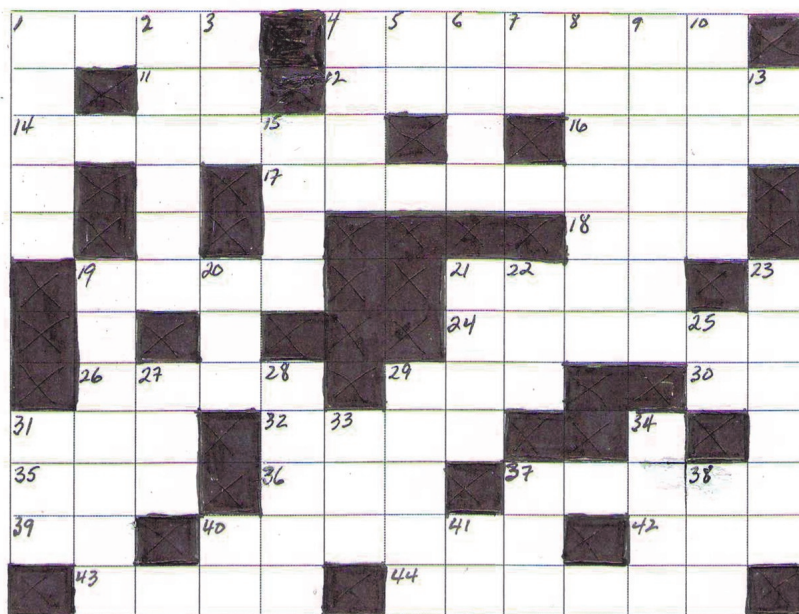
Source: Postmedia News

*Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.*

Helen Keller

FOR YOUR SUMMERTIME LEISURE

NAME:



ACROSS

1. CoSA Member
4. Flees
11. And (French)
12. Intense force
14. Prisoner
16. Verve/energy
17. Necessary as a part
18. Anger
19. Border
21. ____ pong
24. Needs attention fast
26. Price
29. Inquire
30. Alternative
31. Toilet (British)
32. Hot-headed
35. Paintings
36. Snake
37. Unseals
39. Mustang (auto)
40. Comes to see
42. ____ Angeles
43. Knock senseless
44. Promise

DOWN

1. Felony
2. Return to detention
3. Escorted temporary absence
4. Divisible by two
5. Yes (Spanish)
6. Move toward
7. ____ Capone
8. Gazing
9. Expand
10. ____ a mountain
13. A pronounced 'n'
15. Serving ____
19. Accompany
20. Motor fuel
21. Shove
22. Annoy
23. Tension
25. Negative
27. On the way ____
28. Instruct
29. Clear meat jelly
31. Get behind
33. Blockhead
34. ____ copter
37. Montreal Symphony Orchestra (French)
38. Negation
40. Dejà ____
41. In the direction of

No cheating!

First one to give their correct crossword to Paula will receive a small gift.



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DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ In Spring, some Bavarians traditionally tie baskets of wild strawberries to the horns of their cattle. This offering is to encourage strawberry-loving elves to help the cows have healthy calves and an abundance of milk..
- ◆ The appearance of bats in the early evening is an omen of fine weather to come.
- ◆ To relieve seasonal allergies, try grape seed extract. It inhibits the release of histamines. Great for allergy sufferers.
- ◆ To deter flies from buzzing around your doorway, plant mint near the entrance.
- ◆ Sprinkle dried oregano, rosemary, tarragon, or other herbs onto hot coals just before grilling to enhance the flavor on foods on the BBQ.
- ◆ To produce sweet tomatoes and lower soil acidity, lightly sprinkle baking soda around the plants.
- ◆ Restrain yourself: yellowing, dying foliage may look unsightly on spring-flowering bulbs that have finished blooming, but leave it in place until it is completely brown, to help the bulbs store food for next year.



THE LAST LAUGH

- ◆ Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?
- ◆ The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
- ◆ A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it than when you are in it.
- ◆ To do is to be (Descartes). To be is to do (Voltaire). Do be do be do (Frank Sinatra).
- ◆ Ah, but Canada does have a summer. It's the time that separates one hockey season from another.