



Proposed Okanagan Correctional Centre

Development and Construction

Q.) What is the required land area for the new centre?

A.) About 20 acres, including secure outdoor work areas, fencing and parking. The building will be up to four storeys in height, and about 20,000 square metres.

Q.) What will this new facility cost?

A.) At this early stage the construction cost is estimated to be about \$200 million.

Q.) How long will it take to build?

A.) We expect construction to take about 30 months, beginning in 2013, with completion in 2015.

Q.) What type of security system will be in place?

A.) The new centre will be built to the highest security standards. All of our centres use a combination of staff supervision and surveillance technologies.

Q.) How many inmates will be at this facility?

A.) There will be 360 cells in 10 living units.

Q.) What is the nature of the crimes committed by those in custody?

A.) This new centre will be a secure custody centre, accommodating remanded individuals awaiting trial and those sentenced to fewer than two years. As such, they will represent a wide range of offense types.

Q.) What is the average length of time in custody?

A.) About 30 days for remanded inmates and 56 days for sentenced inmates.

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**Ministry of
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Solicitor General**

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Community Benefits

Q.) Will the Province contribute to infrastructure improvements required in the municipality, in light of the impact of the centre?

A.) With the development of major additions or new construction, the Province typically contributes to local government infrastructure improvements.

Q.) Will the Province contribute to development cost charges?

A.) Yes, where applicable.

Q.) How are taxes paid to the municipalities with correction centres?

A.) The Province pays grants in lieu of taxes to municipalities in amounts ranging from \$0.5 million to \$1.5 million for correctional centres.

Q.) What impact will this new centre have on the local RCMP detachment?

A.) The accused are often held in local police cells, awaiting court outcomes or an escort to a distant correctional centre. The new Okanagan centre will significantly reduce pressure on these local police lockups.

Q.) What is the job creation potential of this new centre?

A.) About 240 correctional staff will be employed at the centre with a number of additional contracted staff also on-site, like nurses, doctors, dentists, food service workers, trades personnel, and counsellors. The project will likely generate 400-500 direct construction jobs as well as 600 indirect jobs during construction.

Q.) What is the estimated payroll of the new centre?

A.) The new centre will generate a payroll of more than \$17 million per year.

Q.) What local business opportunities will the new centre create?

A.) Food services, janitorial and maintenance services, health care, and dental services, depending on the actual location of the centre.

Q.) Will the centre affect the local crime rate?

A.) There is no evidence that the introduction of a provincial correctional centre affects local crime rates.

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Community Involvement

Q.) How will the Centre communicate with our community?

A.) BC Corrections strives to maintain positive relationships with the communities in which correction centres are located. A Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be established so the community has a formal means of awareness and involvement in the centre's operation.

The role of the CAB is to:

- Provide an impartial, non-correctional, community perspective on centre management.
- Convey the community's expectations to management.
- Consult with management on offender case management and community reintegration.
- Participate in centre programs and act as a community source on correctional programs and operations.
- Participate in regular board meetings to discuss current policies and programs and to provide feedback on their participation in centre-related activities.

The CAB will be comprised of at least six members of the community and the centre's staff, appointed by the centre's warden. Members will be appointed based on their:

- Personal interest.
- Experience in a similar board or relevant field.
- Position as a representative from a key organization or community sector.

Correctional Centre Programs

Q.) What community work programs will the centre operate?

A.) Where appropriate, inmates can participate in supervised community work programs. These are partnerships with the community and can involve roadside clearing, park enhancement, firewood production, fire suppression, and other work that the community might request. In addition to being a resource to the local community's needs, these programs give inmates hands-on experience learning the value of work ethic, teamwork and accountability, while earning a wage and gaining experience they can use after their release. Vocational programs include:

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- Certificate programs such as First Aid, Food Safe, Superhost, Hazardous Materials Recognition and Handling, Transportation Endorsement, Forklift Operation.
- Trades courses based on college programs teach metal work, sewing, carpentry, horticulture, plumbing, wiring, forestry, oil industry, framing and dry-walling skills.
- Skill-building labour gives inmates work experience doing food preparation, laundry, roadwork, landscaping, packaging, painting and maintenance.

Q.) What other types of inmate programs are offered?

Education programs:

A.) Providing inmates with the ability to expand their education gives them a wider range of opportunities and improves their social skills. In addition to earning their high school diploma and taking college preparation courses, here are some examples of education programs offered at BC Corrections' centres:

- Essential Skills to Success builds basic reading, writing, budgeting, and life skills.
- Career Builders teaches self-assessment, communication skills, résumé writing as well as accountability and work ethic concepts.
- Indigenous Studies raises awareness and understanding of Aboriginal cultures.

Cultural and spiritual programs:

A.) Cultural and spiritual programs offer support and guidance appropriate to the diversity of the inmate population. These include:

- Sweat lodge ceremonies, talking circles and spiritual counselling. Some centres also have dedicated healing spaces for aboriginal inmates.
- Chaplains offer religious services for a range of beliefs and language groups.
- Community groups also provide cultural services when centres house immigration detainees.

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Cognitive programs:

A.) Each facility offers programs that are designed to make positive changes to the patterns of thinking and behaving that contribute to a criminal lifestyle.

These include:

- Breaking Barriers, which helps inmates develop positive skills for interacting with others.
- Substance Abuse and Relapse Prevention, which addresses addiction and self-destructive behaviour patterns.
- Emotions Management, Violence Prevention and Respectful Relationships, which teach new coping skills and reduce violence.
- Cognitive Skills, which teaches inmates how to think in a reasoned and deliberate fashion.
- Life Skills, which gives inmates the basic tools and knowledge for living independently.
- Positive Parenting, which teaches inmates with children how to build healthy family relationships.

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