



NORTH AMERICA REGION ICCPPC REPORT

November 7, 2019



CANADA

Bishop Gary Gordon, Bishop of Victoria, British Columbia, and Bishop ponens to the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy of the Correctional Service of Canada, thanks to everyone for this opportunity to provide some information on the current situation of prison pastoral care in Canada. The report was prepared for the recent Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' Plenary.

The provision of Catholic pastoral care and sacramental ministry continues to be delivered in Federal Correctional facilities across Canada by outstanding, dedicated Catholic Chaplains and hundreds of Catholic volunteers.

Up until 2014, screening, hiring, and oversight of Prison Chaplains were facilitated by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy (IFC), and Religious Authorities. This arrangement worked well in most Catholic jurisdictions.

In 2014, the National Contract model came into effect. The first contractor under this model, Kyros Pneuma, had a good working relationship with Religious Authorities, the IFC, Chaplains, and CSC because of their experience and history with prison ministry. However, the Chaplains took a reduction in their compensation package, and relations with the IFC and Religious Authorities became more complicated.

The second National Contract holder, Bridges of Canada, further weakened the relationship with Religious Authorities and the IFC, resulting in the compensation package for Chaplains incurring more reductions, and with pastoral ministries now being measured by hours and minutes. Using this approach as a determinant to assess the religious needs of an institution leaves the Chaplains in a precarious position in terms of job security, further resulting in general low morale.

The IFC operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the CSC. In its present form, this creates a direct relationship between the IFC and the Commissioner of the CSC, which provides

an opportunity for direct input on the delivery of pastoral care through a process of Prison Site Evaluations. The CCCB has five appointed representatives on the IFC, from the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairie, and Pacific regions of the country. Recent conversations between these Catholic representatives of the IFC and Chaplaincy Management Leader, Rev. William Rasmus, indicate some changes are currently being planned. The following is a summary of the conversations:

1. The implementation of more chaplaincy positions and chaplain hours.
2. On-site Chaplains are to fully represent their respective faith affiliation while coordinating with all other religions and faith providers.
3. While Chaplains are assigned primarily for the inmate population, they will also provide pastoral care to the whole institution.
4. CSC Chaplaincy understands that the Roman Catholic provision of pastoral care may be provided by Deacons and qualified laypeople. Historically, this working relationship between the CSC and the CCCB goes back almost 40 years. However, it still requires some coordination by the Roman Catholic Church to provide the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Sacrament of the Sick. This historic accommodation between the CSC and the CCCB, of a division of Pastoral and Sacramental care, adds a layer of complexity and confusion for the inmate population, and CSC management.
5. CSC Chaplaincy Management and Bridges of Canada have tried to assist with a kind of contractual stipend for sacramental provision by Priests. In at least one institution, lay Chaplains work with local clergy to provide Mass and Confessions once a month on a volunteer basis.

The possibility of the Correctional Service of Canada moving to an employee model of chaplaincy is plausible, and to this end, the Roman Catholic Church should be prepared to put forward candidates. The continued nurturing of cooperation and dialogue with all stakeholders is essential to maintain a healthy and functional relationship in order to provide prompt and appropriate ministry to the inmate population in Canada. Even with the shortage of Priests in some areas of the country, this ministry has always been important to the Church; as a service to Christ Himself in the poor among us. It is Bishop's Gary hope that, together with all key partners, we will find ways to better serve and provide for this ministry.

One area that the Church in Canada might consider to facilitate this ministry is through education, by offering programs on Restorative Justice in seminaries, theological schools, Catholic universities, and adult faith formation programs. This would be very beneficial in all pastoral applications where harm and conflict need the healing ministry of the Church.

Finally, it is important to know that Canada is a signatory to the UN Charter on the treatment of prisoners, which clearly states that inmates have a right of access to their religious faith. This fundamental human right is not the responsibility of the government to provide. However, in Canada and many other nations, there is a commitment to accommodate and to provide resources to assist faith communities in this ministry.

Country	Canada https://www.prisonstudies.org/country/canada
Ministry responsible	Public Safety Canada
Prison administration	Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), provincial and territorial correctional services
Contact address	340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0PQ (CSC), provincial and territorial correctional services
Telephone	+1 613 9955364
Fax	+1 613 9470091
Website	http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca
Head of prison administration (and title)	Anne Kelly Commissioner of CSC
Prison population total (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners)	39 579 <i>average for year to 31.3.2018 (Statistics Canada - comprising 38,786 adult prisoners and 793 persons under 18 in youth custody. The figures, at the foot of this table and in the graphs, are for the 12 months ending on 31 March of the year indicated.)</i> <i>Immigration detainees are not included: 6,251(2017)</i> https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/canada
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	107 <i>based on an estimated national population of 36.89 million at beginning of October 2017 (Statistics Canada)</i>
Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners (percentage of prison population)	38.7% <i>(average, year to 31.3.2018)</i> Further Information
Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	c. 5.6% <i>(2014)</i> Further Information
Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. definition (percentage of prison population)	2.6% <i>(average, year to 31.3.2015 - under 18)</i>
Number of establishments / institutions	216 <i>(2015 - number of adult institutions, of which 43 are federal and 173 are provincial / territorial prisons)</i>
Official capacity of prison system	38 771 <i>(average, year to 31.3.2015 in adult institutions, of which 15,348 in federal institutions and 23,423 in provincial / territorial institutions)</i>
Occupancy level (based on official capacity)	102.2% <i>(average, year to 31.3.2015, in adult institutions - 98.8% in federal institutions and 104.4% in provincial / territorial institutions)</i>

Prison population trend (year, prison population total, prison population rate)	2001	35,533	115
	2003	35,868	114
	2005	34,365	107
	2007	37,452	115
	2009	39,051	117
	2011	39,916	117
	2013	41,026	118
	2015	40,663	114
	2017	40,770	112

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCCA) was dissolved at the end of 2016. The last ACCCA Annual Conference was at the Espousal Retreat House (Stigmatines), Waltham, MA, on August 3-5, 2016. Bishop Barry Knestout was the ACCCA Episcopal Moderator. One of the 26 participants was Rev. Leonard Kosatka, CP, Past President, International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care (ICPPC). He passed away on August 2, 2017.

The ACCCA was only for priest Correctional Chaplains., so Rev. Kosatka advised Rev. Richard Deshaies, SJ, volunteer prison chaplain, to create a new organization under a new name American Catholic Correctional Ministries (ACCM) The ACCM is inclusive of additional ministries and ministers- laypeople.

The ACCM is in collaboration with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC), the American Correctional Chaplains Association (ACCA), and is an Affiliate of the American Correctional Association (ACA). The NACC is in the process of offering a certification program for prison chaplains and volunteers laypeople.

Also, another organization has emerged: The Coalition of Catholic Prison Ministries (CCPM), it is a coalition of prison chaplains, diocesan prison ministry directors, and nonprofit organizations (St. Dimas Prison Ministry, Catholic Mobilizing Network, Order of Malta, The Society of St Vincent de Paul),to seeks to enhance Catholic ministry to those incarcerated, detained, or reentering society and those affected by incarceration.

Given the alarming figures of 2,3 million incarcerated people, 2,700 inmates in death rows, 5 million people in probation, and 2.7 million children with incarcerated parents. The priority is to have an US Episcopal Commission for the pastoral care of all involved and affected by the Criminal Justice System.

This professional pastoral team, with ordained and lay ministers, will assist the Episcopal moderator. Every member of this pastoral team is very well known for his/her experience in prison ministry, and appointed by their local ordinary. It implies surrounding by competent advisers to initiate joint-programs in the pastoral plan on the national, diocesan, and parochial levels.

An example is the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Florida, composed of seven dioceses. It is on a path of learning to work in a joint- pastoral. It has a prison ministry committee constituted by the seven diocesan directors for prison ministry who have meeting once a year to report their activities.

Florida has about 100 thousand inmates in about 100 state prisons. It is not counting county jails, federal prisons, juvenile detention centers, and immigration detention centers. Zooming the territory of the Archdiocese of Miami has about 20 thousand persons who are deprived of freedom, in 3 federal prisons, 10 state prisons, 11 county jails, 3 juvenile detention centers, 2 immigrant detention centers, 1 mental evaluation and treatment center for those who have committed crimes, and 1 temporary closed center for unaccompanied immigrant children.

There is one last point to report: Puerto Rico is a US associated state, but a Spanish-speaking country. The US prison and detention systems are ruling and running jails, prisons, and detention centers in Puerto Rico. Rev. Oscar Granado, National Prison Chaplain of Puerto Rico, agreed that this particular situation is taken into account in which Puerto Rico can also participate in the North American region - but continuing to be part of the Latin American Prison Pastoral Care.

Country	United States of America https://www.prisonstudies.org/country/united-states-america
Ministry responsible	Department of Justice
Prison administration	Federal Bureau of Prisons, state and local correctional authorities
Contact address	320 First Street N.W, Washington DC 20534
Website	http://www.bop.gov
Head of prison administration (and title)	Kathleen Hawk Sawyer Director of Federal Bureau of Prisons
Prison population total (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners)	2 121 600 <i>at 31.12.2016 (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics - 704,500 in local jails, 1,228,800 in state prisons, 188,300 federal prisoners. In addition, there are prisoners in the 80 Indian Country Jails (2,540 at mid-year 2016) and the 1,852 juvenile facilities (50,821 at 2014).)</i> <i>Immigration detainees are not included: 323,591(2017)</i> https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/united-states
Prison population rate (per 100,000 of national population)	655 <i>based on an estimated national population of 323.9 million at end of 2016 (from U.S. Census Bureau figures)</i>
Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners (percentage of prison population)	21.6% <i>(31.12.2016)</i> Further Information

Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	c. 9.8% (31.12.2016) Further Information		
Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. definition (percentage of prison population)	0.2% (2014 - juveniles)		
Foreign prisoners (percentage of prison population)	5.2% (2014)		
Number of establishments / institutions	4 455 (3,163 local jails at 2014, 1,190 state confinement facilities at 2005, 102 federal confinement facilities at 2005)		
Official capacity of prison system	2 140 321 (2014)		
Occupancy level (based on official capacity)	103.9% (2014)		
Prison population trend (year, prison population total, prison population rate)	2000	1,937,482	683
	2002	2,033,022	703
	2004	2,135,335	725
	2006	2,258,792	752
	2008	2,307,504	755
	2010	2,270,142	731
	2012	2,228,424	707
	2014	2,217,947	693
Further information			