

## Saskatchewan Penitentiary *Anonymous Prisoner 15*

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I am an Indigenous prisoner serving a life sentence in Saskatchewan Penitentiary past my parole eligibility date. Years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. After the operation to remove a tumour I was left with disabilities, including loss of memory and sight. I was in a wheelchair for several years. After a lot of physiotherapy, today I can walk with some balance issues. I cannot run.

While I was at Bowden Institution in Alberta I was granted cultural escorted passes by the warden. I had many successful Escorted Temporary Absences (ETAs) for a year. Then the Harper Government brought in a law requiring Lifers to have approval by the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) before being able to go on passes. I have been waiting for almost two years for approval to go on passes, with one excuse or another preventing me from continuing my healing journey. Why can the warden no longer be allowed to approve ETAs? They did it before Harper's punishment agenda was upon us with successful results the vast majority of the time.

I accept my life sentence for being involved in murder. For the past number of years, I have changed my life – no violence, drugs or involvement in prison subculture activities. I have dealt with my childhood trauma, my residential school abuse issues – the violence, drug use, negative thoughts and feelings that were symptoms of my sickness arising from my childhood trauma. I am involved in my culture, I am spiritual and I pray every day. I hope that I am able to take advantage of the cultural ETAs provided by the Elders without being assessed by people at the PBC who do not know me.