

Drumheller Institution
Anonymous Prisoner 19

Having lived on this earth for more than a half-century, I have spent over two decades behind bars, despite being eligible for parole for more than 10 years. In my time in the federal penitentiary system, I have seen so many changes and most of them not for the good.

In recent years, we are now having to additional pay room and board, which is deducted from our institutional pay every two weeks. As well, we have lost our dollar a day work incentives through CORCAN. Our chances for a better education are almost non-existent in the Prairie Region, aside from being able to get a GED. Our health care is lacking and all the doctors seem willing to commit to in terms of care is prescribing an assortment of pills, including for mental health issues – simple zombification.

We need better support for our loved ones while we are incarcerated, such as family programs. We need better support for mothers and family that find themselves suddenly alone when we are incarcerated so that they do not have only welfare to get by.

Anything that we have to purchase through canteen or catalogue purchasing comes with a considerable mark-up, so unless you are wealthy on the street, you are a beggar behind bars. Even up at the minimum where I currently am and have been for the last number of months, we have to buy our groceries from a paltry weekly allowance with a mark-up from the wholesaler and supplier to the institution.

I hope you can use this information for the betterment of all concerned.