

ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT FOR PRISONERS

When the Conservative government made all prisoners pay additional fees for room and board, pay administrative fees for things like servicing the telephone lines, and took away CORCAN incentive pay, they created undue hardship on prisoners and their families. It is more difficult for prisoners to pay for phone calls, pay for food for Private Family Visits and to buy anything that they may need that health care does not provide. A lot of prisoners used to send money home to their families when they were being paid their full pay before all the deductions were imposed. Now the amount they can send home is greatly reduced or non-existent.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is when prisoners are released from the penitentiary they have very little money, if any, to help them readjust to life in the community. This only adds to the possibility that a prisoner may commit a crime to support themselves.

To remedy both issues, I propose bringing back the CORCAN incentive pay, not making us pay room and board, and abolishing administrative fees. These measures would go a long way to alleviate the stress and hardships placed on all prisoners and their families under the previous, short-sighted government.