

**HONOURING PRISONER PAROLE  
ELIGIBILITY DATES AND TRANSFORMING  
THE CULTURE OF CONDITIONAL RELEASE**

My personal experience relating to this subject has been echoed by many other prisoners while I have served my sentence. I have found that most of the Institutional Parole Officers (IPOs) who I have dealt with have very similar beliefs and attitudes when it comes to honouring parole eligibility dates. It seems that for a majority of them our parole eligibility dates do not really matter or that we are not ready, in their opinion, even after we have completed our Correctional Plan. I have found that in my case, and in most of the prisoners that talk to me about their case, we are being persuaded and pushed to waive our right to apply for parole when we are eligible. I have been told things by IPOs such as “I will not support you for parole unless you wait it out”, “I am 99.9% sure that you will not get parole if you do not waive or postpone your application for parole”, and “why are you in such a rush to get out of prison?”, at which point I had been in prison for over half of my sentence.

With respect to Parole Board Canada, I have not been in front of them for almost a decade when I was serving a previous sentence. However, I have observed that more prisoners are getting day parole over the last couple years both in Mountain Institution and Mission Minimum Institution since the new Liberal government took office. This has been a positive development for prisoners looking for more reintegration opportunities to ensure their success in the long-term. Work in this direction should continue in order to enhance correctional outcomes and public safety.