

APPENDIX

Journal of Prisoners on Prisons
c/o Justin Piché, PhD
Department of Criminology
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5

1 March 2017

RE: Call for input and/or submissions

Dear Inmate Committee Chairman:

Upon being elected, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau mandated his Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Jody Wilson-Raybould to review criminal justice laws, policies, and practices enacted during the 2006-2015 period under the previous government. We believe that part of this process should involve prisoners who have experienced recent penal reforms first-hand to assess what have been their impact on the criminalized and what changes are needed going forward.

To this end, we are writing you to request your observations on what has changed in the prisons where you have served time during the last decade as part of the Harper government's "punishment agenda". We would like to know not just what you think about those changes and how they have impacted your lives, but also what you would like to see moving forward in terms of your main priorities for change and the types of social action those outside of prison walls could engage in to help address the challenges that presently characterize life in a federal penitentiary. It would be appreciated if you could provide via correspondence a list of the top 10 issues that you see as being priorities. For those in "multi-level" prisons, we would also welcome responses from individuals in settings like segregation or other areas of the prison where prisoners may not have the opportunity for "normal association". We understand that an individual's experience of incarceration may differ based upon their location within the prison.

This project is being led by Dr. Justin Piché (a criminologist at the University of Ottawa), Jarrod Shook (a former federal prisoner and now student studying criminology) and Bridget McInnis (a social work and

criminology student about to enter law school). Together we would like to compile your responses and publish them in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons* (www.jpp.org), an academic peer-reviewed journal that privileges the voices of those with lived experience relating to being criminalized and punished. Our goal is to offer you a platform to inform debates about Canadian penal policies and practices.

We sincerely believe that what you know to be true about federal prison life has value and we would like to see your knowledge reflected in the government's review of the criminal justice system. Please respond back to us by 30 March 2017 or shortly thereafter so that we may begin incorporating your experiences into our analysis. If you need any resources that may assist in this process or have any questions regarding the project or the *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We stand together with you in solidarity.

Sincerely,

Justin Piché, PhD
Bridget McInnis
Jarrod Shook