

Real Problems Require Real Change

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The problems that exist in the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and within our justice system cannot be fixed without fixing the problems within society first (Culhane, 1985). Sure, the CSC can stop underpaying us (Guerin c. Canada, 2019) and provide prisoners proper food (Harris, 2019), but that will not solve the main problem that needs to be fixed.

The main problem is when a person who is in conflict with the law faces years and often decades in prison before any possibility for parole. When the government privileges harsh punishment instead of looking for solutions or even trying to rehabilitate the prisoner, we all lose. These are the *real* problems that require *real change* as was promised by the previous Liberal government (see LPC, 2015). So before we talk about how horrible the food is, how unjust prisoners' pay is (see Shook, 2018), how many employment and education programs have been cut, we as a society must also look at the philosophy which guides how society views those who are incarcerated.

On a more optimistic tone, we can see a more progressive movement emerging within our country. As we look to our friends and allies in countries which have reduced the use and harms of imprisonment. We can clearly see what does not work (Mathiesen, 1990). Canada needs to catch up with the rest of the world. People need to start writing to the media, their politicians and rally for the change that our society requires. There is no greater evil in any society than remaining silent while an injustice takes place. Be part of the solution, write and make your outrage heard.

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