

## The View from the Margins

Paul

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I am happy to see that issues which affect the lives of so many Canadians in the prison system are finally starting to be addressed. A major issue that we as a society must continue to work on is how we treat our prisoners, our poor, our disabled and all those that are pushed to the margins. I am happy to see so many Canadians that are incarcerated, as well as those who are free taking up the fight (see Shook *et al.*, 2017), are trying to bring meaningful change to better us as a people and nation. There is still so much work to do. We need to push forward and introduce changes that will put a bigger emphasis on rehabilitation and end the barbaric, outdated notion of punishment. I think that it is up to us to continue, adding our voices, and keep putting our efforts into the work that has already begun. We need to write letters to our Government (Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Minister of Public Safety, our Senators, and progressively-minded MPs), and let them know that we are demanding changes in how we as a nation are treating our prisoners. We must end life sentences. We must feed and pay our prisoners properly. We must also look to successful nations in progressive Europe and copy their successes. We must stand up for change and back those who back the greater movement like Senator Kim Pate and countless other government officials, attorneys, prison activists, and champions of the little guy who constantly fight for prisoner's rights like Tommy Bassio. Join the movement and be heard!

### REFERENCES

Shook, Jarrod, Bridget McInnis, Justin Piché and Kevin Walby (eds.) (2017) Special Issue: Dialogue on the Canadian Penitentiary System and the Need for Penal Reform, *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*, 26(1&2): 1-302.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Paul* is imprisoned at Archambault Institution.