



Niagara Chapter - Native Women Inc.

Over the course of two months. Nov.-Dec. 2020, efforts were made to collect regional data on Indigenous female incarcerations within the Niagara Region, Canada. It was difficult to access specifics for the Local Region as we were told ethnicity was not noted until Jan.1, 2020 when they began to collect such information. This to be reported, Jan. 2021. Therefore, Federal and Provincial reports such as Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls for Action; Ombudsmen Reports and the Ontario Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan provided information for tracing trends over time.

LOCAL

- As of Jan. 1st, 2020 NRPS, is required to begin collecting race data for incidents where there is use of force and/or strip searches
- NRPS Reporting done annually; initial data set should be available through Police Services Board in Jan. 2021
- Report of Milton Jail - Vanier Centre for Women discusses OHRC encouragement for better accommodations needed
- 2019 CBC article: Hamilton Wentworth District's Barton jail with poor living conditions

No response and/or denial of response from:

- Ministry of Solicitor General
- Welland Corrections Office
- St. Catharines Corrections Office
- Ontario Parole Board



PROVINCIAL

- Ontario Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2017-2022
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendships Centres' Indigenous Community Justice Program - diverts Indigenous youth and adults from criminal justice system
- 2008 report by Ontario Women's Justice network
- Ombudsmen Ontario - "Ontario's Watchdog" Annual Report 2019-2020
- Ministry of Solicitor General Corrections in Ontario: Directions for Reform 2017 Report
- Ont. Government invests \$3.5 m dollars for first dedicated unit to aid female inmates mental health



FEDERAL

- Indigenous women now account for 42% of women in federal custody
- Nine healing lodges in Canada run by Corrections Canada and Indigenous Organizations, 8 serve federal inmates
- In 2015, 1/40 women released on parole from Buffalo Sage Wellness House Healing Lodge in Alberta
- Indigenous incarceration rate is 10 times higher than the Non-Indigenous population
- Number of Indigenous people denied bail jumped 92% in the 15 years leading up to 2009

36% of women sentenced to provincial and territorial custody in Canada are Indigenous

From March 2005 & March 2015 the Federal Indigenous Incarceration rate increased by more than **50%** compared to an overall **10%** population growth

January 2020 Indigenous people accounted for **5%** of the Canadian population yet represented **30%** of the Federal inmate population



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Information provided above as well as further reading can be found in the following reports, articles, resources (etc):

- Blackburn, Mark. "It's Disappointing: Corrections Maintains Status Quo As Number of Indigenous Women Tops 40% of Prison Population." APTN News, June 10, 2019. <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/its-disappointing-corrections-maintains-status-quo-as-number-of-indigenous-women-tops-40-of-prison-population/>
- Chan, Jody., Chuen, Lorraine, and McLeod, Marsha. "Everything You Were Never Taught About Canada's Prison Systems." Intersectional Analyst, July 20, 2017. <http://www.intersectionalanalyst.com/intersectional-analyst/2017/7/20/everything-you-were-never-taught-about-canadas-prison-systems>
- Department of Justice. "Spotlight on Gladue: Challenges, Experiences and Possibilities in Canada's Criminal Justice System." 2019. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/gladue/p2.html>.
- Government of Canada. Office of the Correctional Investigator Aboriginal Issues. Annual Reports 2008-2015. <https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/priorities-priorites/aboriginals-autochtones-eng.aspx>
- Government of Ontario. "Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systematic Racism." https://files.ontario.ca/solgen_data-standards-en.pdf.
- Independent Review of Ontario Corrections, Ministry of the Solicitor General September 2017, <https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Corrections/IndependentReviewOntarioCorrections/IndependentReviewOntarioCorrectionsDirectionsReform.html#indigenous-elders>.
- "Indigenous Diversion Program Breaking Cycle of Incarceration." The Law Foundation of Ontario, September 21 2020. <https://lawfoundation.on.ca/news/indigenous-diversion-program-breaking-cycle-of-incarceration/>
- Macdonald, Nancy. "Canada's Prisons are the "New Residential Schools."" Macleans, February 18, 2016. <https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/canadas-prisons-are-the-new-residential-schools/>.
- Mandhane, Renu. "Letter to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services re: Findings from Tour of Vanier Centre for Women." Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/letter-ministry-community-safety-and-correctional-services-re-findings-tour-vanier-centre-women>
- Mandhane, Renu. "Letter to Solicitor General Jones re: Hamilton Wentworth Detention Centre." Chief Commissioner of Ontario Human Rights Commission. http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news_centre/letter-solicitor-general-jones-re-hamilton-wentworth-detention-centre.
- Office of the Correctional Investigator. Annual Report 2019-2020. <https://www.oci-bec.gc.ca/cnt/rpt/pdf/annrpt/annrpt20192020-eng.pdf>.
- Ombudsmen Ontario Annual 2019-2020 Report, https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/Media/ombudsman/ombudsman/resources/OntOmbud_AR-2020-EN.pdf.
- Ontario Anti-Racism Act, 2017, <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17a15>
- Ontario Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2017-2022, <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-commission-strategic-plan-2017-%E2%80%93-2022>
- Rankin, Christine. "Extreme Overcrowding at Barton Jail Among Human Right Concerns Raised." CBC News, August 9, 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/ontario-human-rights-hamilton-wentworth-detention-centre-overcrowding-lack-of-training-1.5241675>.
- Solicitor General. "Ontario's First Dedicated Mental Health Unit for Female Inmates." December 19, 2019. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/55205/ontarios-first-dedicated-mental-health-unit-for-female-inmates>