

Families and Corrections Journal

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Rod Carter: A long-time supporter of the CFCN passes away

A long-time supporter of the Canadian Families and Corrections Network died recently. Rod was instrumental as Regional Chaplain (ON), CSC, together with Rev. Norm Barton, of providing funding to the Canadian Families and Corrections Network's first pilot project with families – the Visitor Resource Centre at Kingston Penitentiary. This was a significant development in the CFCN's history and was formative in establishing the CFCN's ability in policy and program development. The KP VRC was later recognized as a best correctional practice by the International Corrections and Prisons Association.

One of Rod's contributions was a Bill of Rights for families affected by incarceration. It appeared in the CFCN's "Waiting at the Gate: Families, corrections and restorative justice":

Families of Prisoners Bill of Rights

You have the right to maintain strong links with your family and friends.

You have the right to be listened to during visits, and your worries and concerns heard, not just sit and listen to your partner complain about the food or the guy he's celling with or his lousy P.O. .

You have the right to seek out your own supports and to go out on social occasions, even with a person of the other gender.

You have the right to be angry, feel betrayed and abandoned.

You have the right not to become a part of your partner's world, the prison. You live in society, not a prison visiting room.

You have the right to respect from prison staff, other offenders, your partner, and members of free society.

You have the right not to be labelled or ostracized by society.

Like all rights, these are not necessarily adhered to, or agreed upon by all members of our communities, but I think they're worth struggling for!

Rod Carter

From Withers, L. (2000). Waiting at the gate: Families, corrections and restorative justice. (CFCN: Kingston).

"Building stronger and safer communities by assisting families affected by criminal behavior, incarceration and community reintegration."



"Contribuer à bâtir des milieux de vie plus stables et plus sûrs, en offrant un soutien aux familles qui doivent composer avec le comportement criminel, l'incarcération et la réinsertion sociale."

During Rod's first year as a Chaplain, I was Rod's 'accompanier,' a process that Chris Carr, then Associate Director Chaplaincy, NHQ CSC, had just developed. In the accompaniment process, new chaplains would meet regularly with a more experienced chaplain. Rod and I were paired and met monthly for a year to discuss the joys (and trials and tribulations) of being Chaplains and of providing chaplaincy services within CSC. It was an important process for both of us.

After serving as Regional Chaplain, Rod went on to become the Director of the Queen's University Restorative Justice program.

Having been incarcerated himself, Rod experienced the joys and pain of family life and relationships. Speaking of himself, he said: "I made my family a prisoner's family." He also clearly understood that restorative justice was not what he called, "A Hug-a-Thug" program, but a powerful way of addressing the harm that is caused by crime, including the harm experienced by the family.

I don't think that Rod's contribution to advancing the needs of families of prisoners was widely known. I hope that this short article helps to correct this.

Lloyd Withers
Executive Director,
CFCN

New research shows that family visits make a difference.

Family visits make a difference, according to new research released by the Correctional Service of Canada. The research found that someone who is incarcerated and has regular visits from a spouse or a family member was less likely to be readmitted and to re-offend than those who received no visits.

In "Visitation and Post-Release Outcome Among Federally-Sentenced Offenders," CSC researchers Dena Derkzen, Renée Gobeil and Justin Gileno did a file review of 6,537 offenders who were released during 2005 - 2006. Their findings were that there was a positive association between having visits while incarcerated and having lower rates of readmission back to prison. In other words, those prisoners who had visits were more successful at community reintegration and were less likely to engage in criminal behavior. All visiting appears to make a difference, whether it was regular visits and/or Private Family Visits with a partner, parents or children.

The researchers found that:

Analyses based on the number of visits received revealed that offenders who received 6.7 visits (the average among offenders who received visits) had odds of readmission approximately 14% lower than their counterparts who did not receive visits. Similarly, offenders who participated in 2.0 private family visits (the average among those who participated) had odds of readmission about 22% lower than those who did not participate.

From <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/reports/r205/r205-eng.shtml>.

The researchers also found that having visits was associated with decreased readmission more than with decreased re-offending, with the exception of those who received visits from a spouse. Those who had visits from a spouse had lower rates of recidivism as well as decreased re-admission. The researchers thus point out that those who receive visits from a spouse "can more often be appropriately managed in the community than can their non-visited counterparts."

Also of note is one of the conclusions of the researchers, that because of the positive effects of having visits, it may be possible to augment the effectiveness of visiting programs to build on its positive effect on successful reintegration.

The full research report can be found at <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/text/rsrch/reports/r205/r205-eng.shtml>.

Study finds that parental incarceration associated with children's difficulties

In "Effects of Parental Imprisonment on Child Antisocial Behaviour and Mental Health: A Systematic Review" (Campbell Systematic Reviews 2009:4), Murray, Farrington, Sekol and Olsen did a meta-analysis of 16 studies to determine if parental incarceration contributed to antisocial behaviour or mental health problems in their children. Their initial hypothesis was that, because of the parental incarceration, the children would experience a trauma related to separation from the parent by incarceration as well as changes to childcare, the effects of financial hardship through the loss of income to the family,

Virtues Project For Youth Ages 5 to 12

Every Wednesday for ten weeks

Sept 15 - Nov 17, 2010

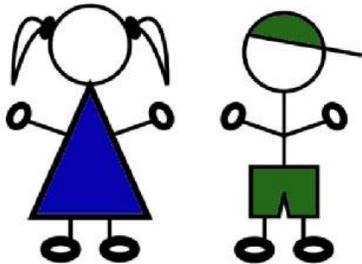
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Zion United Church

106 Pine Street, Kingston

(located near the South East corner of Pine and Division Streets
in the Zion Apartment Complex)

Phone 613-453-1630

Virtues are Gifts of Character like
Trust, Truthfulness & Cooperation



Games and activities will be used to teach life values

Sponsored by Kingston Community Chaplaincy

Facilitated by Margaret Holland

Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation
there is no cost to the participants.

After-school snack provided



Walking Tall - A Program for Women

Every Wednesday for ten weeks

September 15 - November 17, 2010

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Zion United Church

106 Pine Street, Kingston

(located near the South East corner of Pine and Division Streets
in the Zion Apartment Complex)

Phone 613-453-1630

This course will:

- Give women a practical approach to develop a sense of self
- Provide ways women can gain more freedom and be perceived as assertive.
- Provide ways women can be more successful in influencing others to respect their rights, opinions and talents.



Refreshments will be provided

Sponsored by Kingston Community Chaplaincy

Facilitated by Margaret Holland

Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation
there is no cost to the participants.



stigma because of the incarceration of the parent, change in residence or school, and other stressors.

The study found that the children of incarcerated parents were about twice as likely as their peers to have behavioural difficulties and mental health problems. The researchers were not able to determine whether these difficulties were caused by the incarceration of the parent or by other family or living experiences of the child before the child was affected by parental incarceration.

These finds are similar to observations made by Withers and Folsom ("Incarcerated fathers: A descriptive analysis." Research Report R-186. CSC: Ottawa, 2007. p. 14.):

Whether the father was custodial or non-custodial, it appears that paternal incarceration is only one in a series of negative life events that impact on the life of the child. The present study shows that the pre-incarceration lifestyle of the father included a significant criminal history, drug and alcohol abuse, financial difficulties, a family member being a victim of the index offence, and other family members being

involved in criminal activity. In some cases, it also included the child being the victim of the index offence.

Murray, Farrington, Sekol and Olsen suggest that more research is needed to determine parental incarceration and causality. This would include a needed research focus on why some children who are affected by parental incarceration exhibit antisocial behaviour and mental health difficulties while other children who are affected by parental incarceration do not.

The 16 studies that were used by the researchers came from Australia, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the US.

FCJ readers who are interested in the field of parental incarceration and the effect on children may also wish to read the following: Farrington, D., Coid, J., and Murray, J. (2009). "Family factors in the intergenerational transmission of offending." *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, 19: 109–124, and Bijleveld, C., and Wijkman, M. (2009) *Intergenerational continuity in convictions: A five-generation study.* *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, 19: 142–155.

**CFCN Annual General Meeting
to be held on Wolfe Island, Ontario**

The Canadian Families and Corrections Network is pleased to announce that its Annual General Meeting will be held on September 24, 2010, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at St. Margaret's Hall, Trinity Anglican Church, Wolfe Island. The AGM begins with a light meal, followed by a dinner speakers David Molzahn and Christina Guest. David Molzahn is the Director of CSC's Victim Services Branch and Christina Guest is its Senior Project Analyst. Their engaging presentation will focus on CSC Victim Services current and future services to family-victims, those individuals who have been the victim of an offence perpetrated against them by a member of their own family.

Attendees can take the 5 p.m. free ferry from Kingston to Wolfe Island. You can leave your car on the Kingston side - there is free parking at the ferry terminal. St. Margaret's Hall is an easy 8-minute walk to the right down Main Street. Don't worry - we won't start the AGM without you if your walk takes you a couple of extra minutes. The event will finish in time for attendees who wish to take the 8: 30 p.m. ferry back to Kingston.

For those who are not in rush-mode, Wolfe Island



Wind turbines along one of one of Wolfe Island's cycling routes.

is great for bicycling. One route takes cyclists through one of Canada's largest wind farms. Another bicycle route runs by a buffalo farm as you make your way across the island. Plan to take an earlier ferry for a longer visit to Wolfe Island, enjoy some of the local attractions and end your day at the CFCN's AGM.

Notice of Annual General Meeting:

**Canadian Families and Corrections Network /
Regroupement canadien d'aide aux familles des détenu(e)s:**

Friday, September 24, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.,

St. Margaret's Hall, Trinity Anglican Church, Wolfe Island, Ontario.

**Dinner speakers - David Molzahn and Christina Guest,
Victim Services, National Headquarters, Correctional Service Canada.**

A light meal will be served. The general public is welcome and interested attendees are asked to RSVP the CFCN, before September 20, at national@cfcn-rcafd.org or at 1-888-371-2326 so that sufficient meals can be on hand. CFCN membership and donation forms will be available at the door.