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# citizen Action

Citizens' Advisory Committees

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Photo: Erik Gustafsson



Father Bill Irwin

## Welcome to our first edition!

The first edition of *Citizen Action* is an accomplishment which will greatly facilitate Citizens' Advisory Committees from the five regions of Canada in carrying out their mandate to bring "citizen" thought, advice and problem-solving to the administration of the various federal correctional and parole facilities in our country.

This new vehicle of exchange, provided by The Correctional Service of Canada, will also serve as an encouragement to each of the 57 CACs in Canada in knowing the areas of concern and accomplishments of one another. The success of any local, regional or national group depends so much upon active, two-way communication. In our efforts to be of service to staff and offenders *Citizen Action* will be a great addition.

The National Executive Committee invites all CAC members to submit articles, comments, observations and suggestions for *Citizen Action*.

Father William Irwin, Chairman  
National Executive Committee of  
Citizens' Advisory Committees

## "VOLUNTEERS ARE ONE OF THE REAL ANSWERS" – SOLICITOR GENERAL

Solicitor General Bob Kaplan proposed "a three dimensional thank you" for Citizens' Advisory Committee members at the Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner hosted by Bowden Institution, The Correctional Service of Canada and the Citizens' Advisory Committees, November 11, 1982.

"First, I want to recognize what you do for the inmate population. Many people tell me nothing works in dealing with crime ... but you, the volunteers, are one of the real answers that do work. The more contact our inmates have with you, the better. You are public spirited, you have a good sense of values. The very fact you are volunteers makes what you do that much more meaningful to the offenders you serve.

"Secondly, I don't know if you realize how important it is to have volunteers present in our institutions. I remember a hostage-taking that ended in Quebec in 1980 because we had a Citizens' Advisory Committee there to help us.

"Thirdly, I want to thank you on behalf of the community. You are the people who can help the community to understand what is going on. It was CAC volunteers in the Pacific Region assisting at public meetings who led us to do a major study that has now laid out guidelines for institutions in the Fraser Valley area.

"When public opinion needs to be straightened out, I can't do it as easily as you can. The truth comes from you people."



Photo: Erik Gustafsson

Members of the National Executive Committee of CACs, February 4, 1983, Ottawa. From left to right, Gaston Chalifoux, Quebec; Sister Virginia Turner, Atlantic; Donald Yeomans, Commissioner of Corrections; Father Bill Irwin, Prairies; and John Raymond, Pacific. Missing from picture is Dr. Barry Thorne, Ontario.



# Tell us your news!

This is your newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy it – and make use of it!

Here's how:

1. Have you developed a new program or project you're proud of? Tell us about it! Contact your regional CAC representative and he or she will be glad to forward your story to us.
2. Taking some photos? Don't forget to send one to us, clearly identifying everyone.
3. Do you have some ideas you'd like to share with CAC members across the country? We'd like to hear about them!

## Who is the editor?

An editorial board consisting of your National Executive (listed below) will act as your regional representatives and collect and review material you send them. They will then send it on to the Communications Branch of The Correctional Service of Canada, for printing and distribution. This means *Citizen Action* is truly your newsletter and your contributions will be welcomed!

## Any questions about the newsletter?

You can contact Louis Zeitoun, National CAC Coordinator at (613) 992-2871 or write him c/o Communications Branch, The Correctional Service of Canada, 340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa K1A 0P9.

## Send your articles, photos and comments to *Citizen Action* via your CAC reps:

ATLANTIC	QUEBEC	ONTARIO	PACIFIC
Sister Virginia Turner P.O. Box 502 Amherst, Nova Scotia B4H 4A1 (O) (902) 667-2712 (H) (902) 667-9525	Gaston Chalifoux 4020, boul. Rosemont Montréal, Québec H1X 1M3 (O) (514) 663-8660 (H) (514) 728-6366	Dr. Barry Thorne 24 Sydenham Street Kingston, Ontario K7L 3G9 (O) (613) 547-3180 (H) (613) 549-5052	John Raymond Apt. 1207-3760 Albert Street Burnaby, British Columbia V5C 5Y7 (O) (604) 663-3800 (H) (604) 291-7443
PRAIRIES			
Father Bill Irwin Executive Director	Catholic Social Services 8815-99th Street	Edmonton, Alberta T6E 3V3	(O) (403) 432-1137 (H) (403) 423-0676

## Sand River CAC diffuses incident

**ATLANTIC** – After two day parole walk-aways were reported last September at the Sand River Community Correctional Centre, two public meetings of about 75-100 people were held in Port Greville and Advocate, N.S. Members of the Sand River CAC went into action after it became evident much of the citizens' concern could be traced to lack of knowledge about the community correctional centre operation.

CAC chairman **Don Gamblin** agreed to investigate and report back to the communities in six weeks. The CAC met with CSC officials and came up with recommendations which were accepted at meetings on Nov. 9 and 10. An information pamphlet printed by CAC member **Mike Winters** was also distributed. The public seemed satisfied their concerns were heard – and acted upon where possible.

One especially positive outcome is that CAC members are now known in their communities. In future it's hoped public concerns will be directed to the institution or the CAC and issues resolved through consultation.

Congratulations Sand River CAC on a job well done!

**Wayne Struthers, Superintendent,  
Sand River CCC**

## It's annual report time!

**IN THE PRAIRIE REGION** activities undertaken by the Citizens' Advisory Committees included meetings with the inmate committees and the administration, involvement in stress programs for staff and spouses, policy review in relation to penitentiary placement, cascading, volunteers, and citizens as escorts to "temporary absences" ... **THE NATIVE POPULATION** continues to be an important priority for Prairie CACs as well as getting representation from native elders. While not part of the chaplaincy program, native elders are active in cultural programs ... **EDUCATION AND TRAINING** for inmates as an aid to rehabilitation continues to be of prime importance for CACs. Accreditation of courses, especially in trades training, should be a goal of the Service ... **PRAIRIE CACs** also played an important role in reducing public concern following a dramatic, well publicized escape from Edmonton

Institution ... **ASSISTING THE NATIVE BROTHERHOOD**, one CAC joined in conducting a crime prevention project aimed at youth on Southern Alberta reserves. The project was carried out with the help of the Calgary Police Force.



Atlantic: Sister Virginia Turner, CAC Rep.

Photo: Erik Gustafsson

**THE ATLANTIC REGION CACs** tell us they have been involved in a wide variety of activities. The Carlton Centre CAC actively participated in the purchase by the Correctional Service of the house in which the centre operates, as well as in the selection of the individuals who will take advantage of the CCC programs ... **ATLANTIC CACs** (except for Dorchester) met quarterly with the Union of Solicitor General Employees and the inmate committees ... **SHULIE LAKE CAC** was involved in Shulie Lake's change from a day parole camp to a community correctional centre ... **DORCHESTER CAC** has been concerned about inadequate psychiatric facilities and care for inmates in the Atlantic Region ... **WESTMORLAND CAC** has focused on the lack of on-site nursing facilities and concern about the building of the new penitentiary at Renous in New Brunswick ... **STUDIES** made by the CACs included such topics as living units, life skills, mandatory supervision and the development of community projects for limited day parole.

PACIFIC REGION CACs reported a busy year ... **MOUNTAIN INSTITUTION CAC** recommended an expanded and improved treatment program for sex offenders be started at the institution after they studied a report, which they commended highly, on "Psychological Services, Needs and Resources at Mountain Prison." The report was prepared by the institution. They also met with the Warden and other staff to discuss the rebuilding of the institution and endorsed the plans ... **THE HIGH PROFILE** put on Matsqui Institution because of the June 1981 riot, has resulted in the Matsqui CAC continuing to play a vital role in the institution and the community. The CAC observed the progress of the return to normal routine after the riot by regular attendance at the institution, ensured that inmate possessions were properly tagged, monitored health standards set up by the Provincial Health Department, visited



Pacific: John Raymond, CAC Rep.

segregated cells and the inmate population and met with staff. **VICTORIA CAC** reports it assisted such programs as One-to-One, Limited Day Parole, Proposed Family Visiting, the theatre group (WHAT), and Pandora House. Victoria CAC also reviewed the Warden's court and parole hearings and monitored such medical concerns as the need for a new clinical facility, 24-hour nursing coverage and a second medical opinion for inmates without incurring a financial burden beyond that faced by citizens ... **KENT MAXIMUM CAC** reports it visited most areas of the prison regularly, speaking with line staff and the inmate population, including punitive and administrative custody, protective custody, and induction and medical unit inmates ... **VANCOUVER PAROLE CAC** focused on such matters as the issuance of photo ID cards for conditional releases, mandatory supervision and the Solicitor General's Conditional Release Study ... **ABBOTSFORD PAROLE CAC** concerned itself with orientation tours to prisons in the Fraser Valley. Its primary focus was the practices and policies for the treatment of sex offenders, including the development of a position paper ... **ROBSON CENTRE CAC** sponsored weekly Wednesday "munch-time" get togethers with residents and it is also making a study of job opportunities in a time of recession ... **FERNDALE CAMP CAC** reports it has a very good community

relations program on the go. When escorts are available, community work is undertaken ... **REGIONAL PSYCHIATRIC CENTRE CAC** developed methods to inform the local community about the policies and concerns of the institution.



Ontario: Dr. Barry Thorne, CAC Rep.

**WARKWORTH (ONTARIO) CAC** assisted a community volunteer in organizing a display and sale of inmate arts at the annual bazaar of the Campbellford Hospital Auxiliary ... **CAC WINDSOR (PAROLE)** put considerable effort into the issue of ex-offender employment and the implications of the Ontario Human Rights Code with respect to hiring practices in Ontario ... **CAC GUELPH (PAROLE)** actively reviewed the question of establishing a new CRC in the Guelph-Kitchener-Waterloo area. The committee decided to undertake the project and to establish a sub-committee to organize a Board of Directors ... **COLLINS BAY CAC** reports their informal involvement in several inmate grievances and attendance at disciplinary court hearings as observers, as well as meetings with the USGE President and a Union Executive meeting.

**QUEBEC REGION CACs** report that in 1982 they "came of age," undertook fuller exchanges and developed a more realistic understanding of the scope of the task undertaken by CACs in Quebec ... **THREE NEW CACs** came on stream at Leclerc and Montée St-François institutions and at the Federal Training Centre. Two more need to be set up, one at the Regional Reception Centre and one at Ste-Anne-des-Plaines Institution, and two maximum security institutions are still being served by only one Advisory Committee ... **RELATIONS** between the committees and institutional management have been excellent and a cooperative relationship has been maintained. Future undertakings for the Quebec Committees include: establishing the missing CACs; better communication between the regional offices, the CACs, Local Committees and the Technical Committees; more support for the Local Committees, and working more closely with Inmate Committees to involve them in joint planning and future projects.

## Commissioner's Message

**"Your assistance is invaluable to us"**

I have felt the need to have a newsletter for all CAC members which will enhance the means of communications among themselves and help them to be better informed about the total operation of CSC.

As you may know, the Parliamentary Subcommittee on the Penitentiary System in Canada has recommended in its report in 1977 that Citizens' Advisory Committees be established in all penal institutions. I am pleased to report that we now have 57 CACs covering all the institutions and extending to District Parole Offices as well. It is, therefore, timely that such a newsletter be published now.

Your work at the local level of operation has been of invaluable assistance to the CSC, for you have helped in bridging the gap between the community and the federal correctional system and in making it truly accessible and accountable to the Canadian public.

I hope you will find this newsletter useful and that you will take advantage of this publication to contribute items you think might be of interest and assistance to your fellow members.

It has been gratifying for the Service to have the resources of CACs. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for all the services you have offered to make the correctional experience just, humane and effective.

Donald Yeomans  
Commissioner of Corrections  
The Correctional Service of Canada

## Are you getting yours?

### Does your CAC receive the following publications?

- *Let's Talk* – staff publication, every two weeks
- *Liaison* – monthly magazine focusing on criminal justice issues
- *Basic Facts About Corrections* – annual publication of factual information on CSC
- *Annual Report of the Ministry of the Solicitor General*

If not, please contact: Louise O'Reilly, 995-3031, or write her at Communications Branch, 340 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P9.