



ARCHIVED - Archiving Content

Archived Content

Information identified as archived is provided for reference, research or recordkeeping purposes. It is not subject to the Government of Canada Web Standards and has not been altered or updated since it was archived. Please contact us to request a format other than those available.

ARCHIVÉE - Contenu archivé

Contenu archivé

L'information dont il est indiqué qu'elle est archivée est fournie à des fins de référence, de recherche ou de tenue de documents. Elle n'est pas assujettie aux normes Web du gouvernement du Canada et elle n'a pas été modifiée ou mise à jour depuis son archivage. Pour obtenir cette information dans un autre format, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

This document is archival in nature and is intended for those who wish to consult archival documents made available from the collection of Public Safety Canada.

Some of these documents are available in only one official language. Translation, to be provided by Public Safety Canada, is available upon request.

Le présent document a une valeur archivistique et fait partie des documents d'archives rendus disponibles par Sécurité publique Canada à ceux qui souhaitent consulter ces documents issus de sa collection.

Certains de ces documents ne sont disponibles que dans une langue officielle. Sécurité publique Canada fournira une traduction sur demande.

Final Report

FREEDOM TO READ



LC
149
F7
1990



LC
149
F7
1990

1. INTRODUCTION

In January 1990 Pierre Blais, the then Solicitor General of Canada, approved the organization of an international conference on literacy in corrections, to be hosted by the Correctional Service of Canada. The conference, entitled "Freedom To Read" was one of many events within Canada and around the world to mark International Literacy Year. This conference, however, was the only international event which examined illiteracy among prison populations.

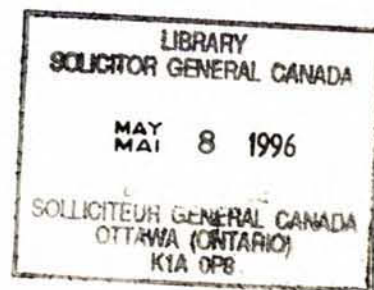
During the early planning of "Freedom To Read", discussions were held between Correctional Service of Canada and the United States Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons. Ole Ingstrup, the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada and J. Michael Quinlan, the Director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons agreed in April 1990 to co-sponsor the conference.

"Freedom To Read" was conceived for several reasons.

- i) The conference would celebrate the efforts of inmate students, teachers, community and peer tutors and administrators who have undertaken over the past several years to decrease the stigma of illiteracy among offenders, make literacy education in penitentiaries more accessible and increase the number of functionally literate offenders.
- ii) For correctional education professionals, the conference would be a learning opportunity and a chance to share ideas and expertise.
- iii) The conference would address one of the objectives of International Literacy Year. This objective was to have those organizations and countries with successful, well-defined literacy programs show leadership to those with less well-developed programs and opportunities. Although the program and approaches of the Correctional Service of Canada and the United States Federal Bureau of Prisons differ, each could learn from the other and teach other organizations and countries a great deal.
- iv) This conference would raise awareness and understanding of how illiteracy affects prisons and offenders.

Copyright of this document does not belong to the Crown.
Proper authorization must be obtained from the author for
any intended use.

Les droits d'auteur du présent document n'appartiennent
pas à l'État. Toute utilisation du contenu du présent
document doit être approuvée préalablement par l'auteur.



2. CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

“Freedom to Read” was held at the Congress Centre in Ottawa, Ontario from October 14 to 17, 1990. Because of the location, the Canadian sponsors were primarily responsible for conference planning, organization and staffing. Since planning time was short, Client Services Group of Supply and Services Canada was hired to provide support and expertise on the technicalities and logistics of conference planning.

Canadian and American conference organizers met during January, February and May of 1990 and maintained constant contact through telephone and facsimile.

The primary conference organizing group was made up of the three aforementioned organizations, namely:

- **Correctional Service of Canada**
Dave Connor, Canadian Conference Chairman
Shelley Borrowman, Canadian Conference Coordinator
- **Federal Bureau of Prisons**
Sylvia McCollum, American Conference Chairman
Paola Nesmith, American Conference Coordinator
- **Client Services Group — Supply and Services Canada**
Stephen Clarke, Chief, Creative and Implementation Services
Martine Ménard, Implementation Officer



Conference organizers Maria Valenti, Paola Nesmith, Shelley Borrowman and Dave Connor relax after Sunday evening's reception.

3. HIGHLIGHTS

The Correctional Service of Canada and the United States Federal Bureau of Prisons were honoured that His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, the Governor General of Canada, gave his patronage to "Freedom to Read". His support for teachers and tutors who work with functionally illiterate offenders is a great encouragement.

His Excellency welcomed delegates at the official opening of the business portion of the conference. During the opening, the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada presented the Governor General with the "Book" that travelled to 42 Canadian federal penitentiaries as part of the International Literacy Year "Book Voyage". The "Book" is filled with the stories, poems, and pictures of offenders who are learning or have recently learned to read and write.

Conference organizers and delegates were also honoured that Mrs. Mila Mulroney and Mrs. George Bush participated in the official opening of "Freedom To Read". Mrs. Mulroney introduced Mrs. Bush, who gave a passionate and optimistic speech concerning the cycle of illiteracy and crime. She brought to her address insightful anecdotes and many years of experience as a literacy volunteer and promoter.

Conference delegates benefitted from many knowledgeable speakers.



The National Gallery of Canada was an outstanding location for delegates to meet for the first time. The Sunday evening reception was a chance for informal greetings from the Solicitor General of Canada, the Honourable Pierre H. Cadieux as well as the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada and the Director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Solicitor General of Canada, the newly appointed Ontario Minister of Correctional Services, Mr. Mike Farnan, and the U.S. Attorney General, Mr. Dick Thornburgh, addressed delegates. Each was pleased with the progress to date in his jurisdiction, however each emphasized the enormous challenges ahead.

In addition to the many special guests and dynamic speakers, one of the highlights was the conference exhibit. The exhibit included a delegate lounge which was furnished entirely with products produced in Canadian penitentiaries under the CORCAN trademark, a display of the Correctional Service of Canada Book Voyage, informational displays from the Correctional Service of Canada and the United States Federal Bureau of Prisons, an international publications exchange centre, and an exhibition presented by the Canadian Prison Arts Foundation.



Awards were presented for Outstanding Contribution to the Correctional Service of Canada's Adult Basic Education Program to : (Top row l-r) Pierrette Simard, Contract teacher, Leclerc Institution; Marc Collette, Evergreen School Division, Stony Mountain Institution; Gérard Prince, Volunteer, Drummond Institution; Pat O'Brien, Springhill Institution; and Dan Kane, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Ontario Region. (Bottom row l-r) Lise Devilliers, Frontier College; Nancy Steele, Kingston Learning Centre, Joyceville Institution; Rob McCreary, teacher, Mission Institution; and William Snowdon, New Brunswick Community College, Dorchester Institution.

4. PARTICIPANTS

“Freedom to Read” was organized for correctional education professionals, administrators in the field of corrections, non-governmental organizations and interest groups who participate in programming for offenders, and policy makers at all levels of government. Invitations were sent to those departments responsible for corrections and education in the member states of the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Pacific Rim. The departments of corrections and education of each Canadian province and territory were invited as were those of the United States. In addition, organizations in Canada and the United States who participate in or have a special interest in prison literacy or community literacy programs were invited.

Once again, tight time frames prevented some methods of advance advertising. The organizers were able, however, to send an advance notice in May, followed by registration packages in July.

Approximately 575 individuals registered for the conference. In addition to delegates from across Canada and the United States, the countries of Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Italy, France, Spain, Ireland, England, Malawi, Republic of Guinea, Barbados and Denmark were represented. Some of the non-governmental and interest groups that attended are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| — John Howard Society | — Canadian Senate |
| — Salvation Army | — Autoskills Inc. |
| — Frontier College | — Simon Fraser University |
| — Laubach International | — Radio Quebec |
| — Laubach Canada | — Movement for Canadian Literacy |
| — Plato Educational Services | — Atlantic Provinces Economic Council |
| — La Magie des Lettres | — Simon and Schuster Workplace
Resources |
| — Citizens Advisory Committee | |
| — Literacy Volunteers of America | |

5. PROGRAM

The central theme of the conference was literacy in a correctional environment. Each of the three conference working days examined the theme from a different perspective. Monday, October 15th offered a potpourri of interactions with specific correctional education themes. Tuesday, October 16th looked at literacy in corrections from a community perspective. Wednesday, October 17th was an opportunity to learn from international colleagues and from the global experiences of those who work at an international level.

The following pages summarize the topics addressed in plenary sessions as well as in panel discussions. Also listed are the subjects addressed during group discussions. The appendix contains the names and addresses of all conference speakers should further information concerning presentations or specific programs be required.



(l-r) Mr. J. Michael Quinlan, Director U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, Mr. Dick Thornburgh, Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Ole Ingstrup, Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada and Mr. Pierre H. Cadieux, Solicitor General of Canada arrive at the closing luncheon, where Mr. Thornburgh officially closed the Conference.

October 15, 1990 Plenary

Professor Pierre Turgeon, University of Ottawa, Jennifer Kawaja, producer of the film "The Other Prison" and David Vainola, director of "The Other Prison" closed the business portion of October 15th with a look at literacy in corrections using drama and theatrics.

Professor Turgeon opened the plenary with poetic verse which described his encounter with Roger Caron, who spent most of his young adult life in provincial and federal correctional facilities. The presentation, centred primarily on Mr. Caron's books, *Go Boy* and *Bingo*, delivered the message that the power of the pen is important in gaining 'freedom' from the penitentiary.

Ms. Kawaja and Mr. Vainola introduced the movie "The Other Prison", which premiered at the conference. This movie focuses on Derek Sands who returns to prison where he has friends and respect he cannot find elsewhere. This time, however, he returns with hope for the future. Maintaining his new-found relationship with Marilyn means revealing he is illiterate. Jeff, a college boy who is terrified of prison life, becomes Derek's tutor while in return, Derek offers Jeff his protection.

Mrs. George Bush and Mrs. Mila Mulroney are greeted by the Correctional Service of Canada Commissioner Mr. Ole Ingstrup, the Solicitor General of Canada the Honourable Pierre H. Cadieux and His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Governor General of Canada.



October 16, 1990 Plenary

“The Impact of Literacy on Offender Reintegration”

Dr. T.A. Ryan, Dr. Frank Porporino, and Ms. Fiona Lea-Wilson brought their personal insight to this important subject.

A recent Canadian study was cited in which offenders said that Adult Basic Education had helped them develop a greater ability to control anger, maintain self-control and express concern for others. Outcomes such as this reinforce what correctional educators have believed for many years, this being that literacy education contributes to the successful reintegration of offenders into the community.

October 16, 1990 Panel Discussion

“Workplace Literacy” — Where does the responsibility of the penitentiary end and the community begin? What are the literacy expectations of business, and what will offenders be faced with upon release?

The three panelists, Mr. Richard P. Seiter, Mr. John Ferguson, and Mr. Jarl Bengtsson looked at workplace literacy from three unique positions. These panelists helped the audience better understand the impact of illiteracy on business and, more generally, the economy of developed countries. Economies based on unskilled labour are being replaced by technologically advanced economies requiring a workforce that is capable of not only reading and writing, but also teamwork and reasoning. Without these qualities, the competitive ability of developed countries will be severely impeded. The underlying message was that “freedom to read” is “freedom to work”.

October 16, 1990 Panel Discussion

“Literacy Training Vs. Other Institutional Realities”

Mr. Pat Kane, Ms. Margaret Hambrick, Rev. Pierre Allard, and Mr. Thomas Townsend provided historical and current insights on how literacy programs can be practically and realistically linked to other institutional programs. These links are essential given the many needs of the inmates and, more importantly, the need to help the inmate lift the stigma of illiteracy. Among the efforts discussed were targeting literacy programs to develop skills for institutional vocational and industrial programs; building classrooms in prison factories; providing literacy training in conjunction with parenting skills so that illiterate inmates learn while helping their young children learn; and encouraging new volunteer tutors through the community faith groups providing spiritual assistance to offenders.

October 17, 1990 Plenary

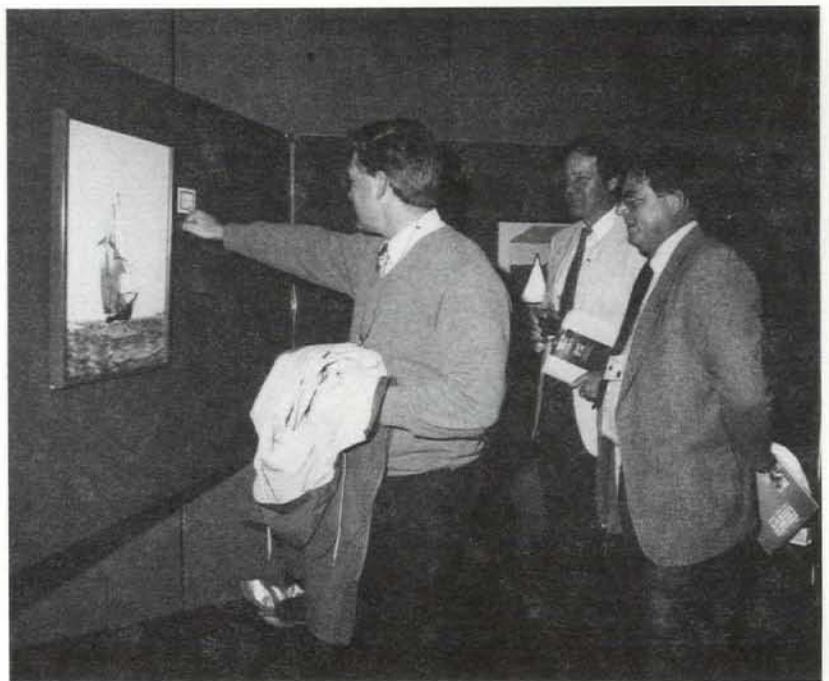
Plenary — “Literacy: A Cross-Cultural Perspective”

This effective presentation emphasized that it is critical for any literacy instructor or tutor to know the background and culture of those being taught so that the instruction has the greatest impact possible. Both Dr. MacDonald and Mr. Dyck brought their presentations alive with a wealth of personal experience.

Group Discussions

The October 15th group discussions addressed various themes, particularly different interventions and techniques which are useful for teachers and tutors teaching literacy in a correctional setting. The October 16th group discussions were led primarily by non-governmental organizations and interest groups whose themes ranged from the business perspective to the role of community and peer tutors in prison literacy programs. The October 17th group discussions were led by six of the international representatives. Those who gave presentations included: Ireland, Spain, the United Nations, Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Barbados. A list of the group discussions, including names and addresses of the speakers, is in the appendix.

The delegates lounge provided a showcase for the Prison Art Foundation to display inmate art.



APPENDIX

October 15, 1990

Dr. Pierre Turgeon
University of Ottawa
Lamoureux Pavilion
145 Jean-Jacques Lussier
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 6N5

Jennifer Kawaja
Winter Films
P.O. Box 1286, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5R3

October 16, 1990

Dr. T.A. Ryan
Professor
College of Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
U.S.A.

Dr. Frank Porporino
Director General
Research and Statistics Branch
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P9

Fiona Lea-Wilson
Assistant Director
Education and Training
National Association for the Care
and Resettlement of Offenders
169 Clapham Road
London, England
SW9 0PU

Richard P. Seiter
Assistant Director
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

John Ferguson
Corporate Manager
Communications
Canada Post Corporation
Sir Alexander Campbell Building
Heron Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0B1

Jarl Bengtsson
Directorate Social Affairs
2 André-Pascal Street
75775 Paris
CEDEX 16, France

Pat Kane
Assistant Director
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

Margaret Hambrick
Warden
Federal Correctional Institute
Lexington
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons

Pierre Allard
Director of Chaplaincy
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0P9

Thomas Townsend
A/Director General
Offender Programs
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa, Ont.
K1A 0P9

Dr. Neil MacDonald
Cross-Cultural Consulting Inc.
114-131 Provencier Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2H 0G2

Robert Dyck
Executive Director
Canadian Organization for
Development
Through Education (CODE)
321 Chapel Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 7Z2

October 15, 1990 Group Discussions

1. Addressing learning disabilities.

Speaker — Sandra Latchford, Coordinator
University of New Brunswick
Learning Centre
60 Surrey Crescent
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E1B 4E3

2. The role of the correctional library in literacy.

Speaker — Monika McEwan, Convenor
Prison Library Interest Group
Canadian Library Association
Regional Headquarters (Pacific)
P.O. Box 4500
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2T 4M8

3. Inmates with different first languages.

Speaker — Manuel Gomez, Regional Education Administrator
South Central Region
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
c/o 440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

4. Do prison arts have a role to play in Adult Basic Education? The special task of the educator is to help inmate students recognize and develop their creativity.

Speaker — Paula Terry, Project Coordinator
National Endowment for the Arts
1600 N. Oak Street, #2-729
Arlington, VA 22209
U.S.A.

Speaker — Kay Wood Bailey, Prison Arts Program
Delaware Dept. of Corrections
80 Monrovia Avenue
Smyrna, DE 19977
U.S.A.

5. Addressing the needs of cultural minorities in a prison literacy program.

Speaker — Ella Colley, Supervisor of Education
Federal Correctional Institute
Ashland, Kentucky, U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
c/o 440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

Speaker — Christopher Lafontaine, Executive Director
Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and
Applied Research
121 Broadway Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4N 0Z6

6. The dynamic concept of motivating inmate students.

Speaker — James Youngman, Supervisor of Education
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons Camp
Allenwood, Pennsylvania
c/o 440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

7. Education technology : techniques for empowerment.

Speaker — William Anthony, Regional Education Administrator
Southeast Regional Office
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
c/o 440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

8. Mobilizing volunteers.

Speaker — John McDonald
Movement for Canadian Literacy
880 Wellington Street, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6K7

9. The 4 R's of functional literacy training are reading, writing, arithmetic and reasoning.

Speaker — Elizabeth Fabiano, Acting Senior Officer
Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West, 2nd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P9

October 16, 1990 Group Discussions

1. **Frontier College** — Founded in 1889, the mandate of this organization is to teach those who are socially isolated.

Speaker — John O'Leary
Frontier College
35 Jackes Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1E2

2. **Business and Literacy**

Speaker — Tim O'Neil
Atlantic Provinces Economic Council
5121 Sackville Street, Suite 500
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 1K1

Speaker — Paul Jones, Publisher
Canadian Business Magazine
70 The Esplanade, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario

3. **Laubach Literacy International.**

Speaker — Nancy Barber
Corrections Training Academy
P.O. Box 207
Orient, Ohio 43146
U.S.A.

4. **SER National** — Founded in 1964, addresses the needs of Hispanics in the U.S. in the areas of education, job skills training, literacy, and employment opportunities.

Speaker — Maria Gomez, SER National Officer
1355 Riverbend Drive, Suite 240
Dallas, Texas 75247
U.S.A.

5. Literacy Volunteers of America.

Speaker — Dale Marlan
Literacy Volunteers of America
338 Carlisle N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
U.S.A.

6. The role of inmate and community tutors.

Speaker — Kathy Humphrey, U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons

Speaker — Henry Hoekema, Programs Coordinator
Prison Education Program
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C.

7. "On Our Way" — native women inmates produce and publish a project between Pine Grove Correctional Centre and Saskatchewan Literacy Network.

Speaker — Sharon Skage, Editor
On Our Way
P.O. Box 3003
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 6G1

Speaker — Wanita Koczka
Deputy Director Operations
Pine Grove Correctional Centre
P.O. Box 3003
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
S6V 6G1

8. Public Policy Forum.

Speaker — Ted Turner, President
Hunt Personnel
c/o 130 Albert Street, Suite 1705
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5G4

9. Correctional Education Association.

Speaker — Mary Lou Browning
Contra Costa County Office of Education
Main Detention Facility
1000 Ward Street
Martinez, California 94553
U.S.A.

Speaker — Steven Steurer, Ph.D.
Correctional Academic Coordinator
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
U.S.A.

10. Meeting the needs of illiterate offenders.

Mandatory literacy

Speaker — Sylvia McCollum, Education Administrator
U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons
440 First St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20534

Mobilizing the organization

Speaker — Dan Kane, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Correctional Service of Canada, RHQ — Ontario
P.O. Box 1174
440 King Street West
Kingston, Ontario K7L 4Y8

Motivation

Speaker — Etta Connor, Education Officer
Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre
4216 Wilkinson Road
Victoria, B.C.
V8Z 5B5

October 17, 1990 Group Discussions

1. Republic of Ireland

Speaker — Mary Kett, Education Organizer
Wheatfield Prison
Dublin 22
Ireland

2. Spain

Speaker — Agusti M. Bassola i Parés, Conseller de
Justícia de la Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de Justícia, Generalita de Catalunya
c/ casp, 26, 08010 Barcelona
Spain

3. United Nations

Speaker — Kurt Neudek
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch
Vienna International Centre
1400 Vienna, Austria

4. Ghana

Speaker — Supt. William Kwadwo Asiedu
Training School
Ghana Prisons Service
P.O. Box 129
Accra, Ghana

5. Trinidad and Tobago

Speaker — Teddy Braithwaite
Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Prisons Headquarters
103A Frederick Street
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

6. Barbados

Speaker — Dr. Bradley E. Niles, Head of the Adult and
Continuing Education,
Department of Barbados
University of West Indies
The Pine, St-Michael
Barbados
