



# NO HOPELESS SPACES

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# INTRODUCTION



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# PRESENTATION TABLE OF CONTENTS

## WHAT TODAY IS ABOUT

1. The Road to Prison
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# THE ROAD TO PRISON



## Poverty & Disadvantage

- Material Lack
- People of color and immigrants
- Lack of informal networks of opportunity
- Neighborhood Stigma and ongoing inequality



## Illegal Adaptions

- Gangs
  - Protection
  - Community
- Drugs
  - Economic Gain
  - Status
- Response to circumstance



## Law Enforcement

- Absence of protection and abundance of surveillance
- Criminal response to suffering





"For the same criminal behaviour, the poor are more likely to be arrested; if arrested, they are more likely to be charged; if charged, more likely to be convicted; if convicted more likely to be sentenced to prison; and if sentenced, more likely to be given longer prison terms than members of the middle and upperclasses" - *National Council of Welfare*



# THE NUMBERS


- In 2018-2019 Canada's incarceration rate was 104 per 100,000. Canada's incarceration rate is higher than the average of western countries
- Just under half (47.0%) of all custodial sentences imposed by adult criminal courts were one month or less
- In 2018-19, the annual average cost of keeping a male incarcerated was \$116,294 per year, and the annual average cost for incarcerating a female was \$204,474
- The cost associated with maintaining an offender in the community was 73.4% less than to maintain an offender in custody (\$32,037 per year)



# THE NUMBERS

- Indigenous offenders represented 26.1% of the 2019-20 total federal offender population despite making up only 4.9% of the overall Canadian population
- It is estimated that at least 10 per cent of inmates meet the criteria for fetal alcohol syndrome, 80 per cent have substance abuse issues when incarcerated, while some 45 per cent have antisocial personality disorders. Despite investment to reduce the prevalence of drugs in prisons, 70 prisoners overdosed inside federal prisons in 2017





# PRISON: CHANGE IS UP TO YOU

## *PRISON*

Adversarial to mental and physical health

## *PROBLEMATIZING OBSTACLES*

Risk assesment and rehilitative tools

PATHWAY OF HOPE 2022



# THE ROAD HOME

## After prison

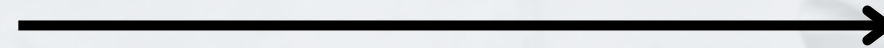
- Extreme Material Hardship
- Weakened Relationships
- Addiction
- Homelessness
- Stigma
- Erosion of Skills



# THE ROAD HOME

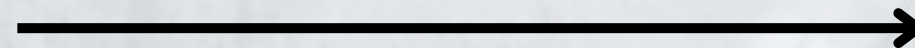
CHANGE: Become  
contributing and pro-social  
members of society

A PROFOUND PARADOX



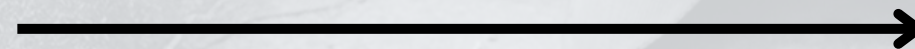
LABEL them criminals and  
make it difficult to legally  
and culturally to shed that  
identity

WORK productively, make a  
legal-wage and avoid the  
criminal enterprise



Employer discrimination  
EXCLUDES ex-offenders  
from many spheres of work

PREPARE inmates  
for individual responsibility,  
accountability and wise  
decision making



STRIP them of their  
dignity, freedom, and agency





# WHAT WORKS?

"Success seems to coincide with programing that extends rather than inhibits ex-offender agency, as well as interventions that empower communities, rather than punish them"

(Wortley, 2003)





# WHAT WORKS?

- **Getting out of trouble**
  - Controlling substance abuse (85%)
  - Family Support (82%)
  - Friends (72%)
  - Personal Identity (76%)
- **Staying out of trouble**
  - Values & Identity (94%)
  - Friends (87%)



# HOPEFUL PROGRAMS

## PEER-TO-PEER VOLUNTEERING

**Ex-offenders as peer volunteers in community-based rehabilitation programs**

- Peer volunteering allows ex-offenders to feel as if they are part of a community.
- Peer volunteering may be one of the only opportunities for an ex-offender to “give back” to the community
- Peer volunteers are especially qualified to help offenders adapt to the community because they had “a lived experience
- Ex-offenders are comfortable working with peer volunteers



# PATHWAY OF HOPE APPLICATION



## QUESTIONS WE CAN ASK OURSELVES

- Do our programs focus on behavioural inadequacies?
- How do our programs incorporate family and friends into the rehabilitative process?
- Do we prioritize order-maintenance unnecessarily?
- Have we considered ways to reduce the impact of labeling on ex-offenders?
- How does your unit partner with and include surrounding community members?



# END

