West Coast
PRISON JUSTICE
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2002

Sylvia Griffith

April 20, 1942 to September 13, 2002

by Sasha Pawliuk

It was early October of 1998. I was driving to Prisoners' Legal Services, carrying a letter from my doctor that said I had to stop working after sixteen years of calling the office my second home. It was one of the worst days of my life. For some reason, I knew that I needed to see Sylvia, to feel for myself the compassion and caring that was her special gift to prisoners and their families. I stopped at the John Howard Society.

*

For many of us Sylvia Griffith was synonymous with the John Howard Society. After almost 30 years of involvement with JHS, putting herself last and her work and her family first, Sylvia Griffith succumbed to lung cancer on September 13th, 2002. She will be remembered and revered as a woman of great energy who valued and respected all human life, and who championed the rights of prisoners and their families despite the unpopularity of that cause. Her legacy is all around us - all you have to do is look at the programs of the current John Howard Society of the Fraser Valley (JHSFV) to bear witness to her dedication and caring.

Sylvia started life on April 20th, 1942 in Saskatoon Saskatchewan. Her parents were teachers in the local one room schoolhouse. When Sylvia was seven, her father died and the remainder of the family relocated to Abbotsford, which has been her home ever since. After graduating from grade 13 she worked in a local bakery doing the accounting, a skill that would stand her in good stead in her future career with JHS. However, in the mid 60's and early 70's her life was centered on raising her children.

The 70's were a time of upheaval in prisons in Canada. After riots across the country, the federal government sent out a parliamentary subcommittee to investigate. Simultaneously, lawyers began to fight for

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prisoners' legal rights in Canadian courts, and the age of rehabilitation and recognition that the rule of law must run within penitentiary walls began. It was against this backdrop that Sylvia began visiting a prisoner in Matsqui, and volunteering at the JHS.

She saw first-hand how many families and friends had nowhere to stay while visiting their incarcerated loved ones. Horrified by the reality that women and their children would sleep in their cars for a week while visiting because they could not afford accommodation, Sylvia began bringing people home for a coffee and a place to stay. When the need overwhelmed her individual resources, she set out to establish a place where families and friends could find the shelter that they needed.

By 1979 she was a paid employee of the JHS, and in 1984 the dream of a family house became a reality with the opening of the John Howard Family House on Riverside Road in Abbotsford, the first of four such houses to date. Now families and friends of prisoners had a place for short-term accommodation while visiting or relocating to the area. But the family house was not Sylvia's only accomplishment in 1984.

That same year, Sylvia started the John Howard Information Fairs in Mission, followed within six months by fairs in all the other major federal institutions except Kent. Sylvia's vision was to provide an opportunity for prisoners to find information and services that would help them on their release. For example, if a prisoner were able to visit with the staff of the same halfway house at the fair every six months over a period of years, eventually he would know the people who could accommodate him on his release. The same reasoning held true for sponsors, alcohol and drug abuse programs, and legal services to mention only a few.

Sylvia had an unerring ability to not only determine what needed to be done, but go out and get the resources to make it happen. When she was approached by prisoners concerned over the high cost and poor quality of food for PFV's, Sylvia started a food program. For two and a half years, JHS provided food at reduced prices for prisoners and their families on PFV's until the move of the JHS house and office made the continuation of the program impossible.

For over 20 years JHS ran a summer program for the children of prisoners, started by Sylvia. Calling on her ingenuity and knowledge of available funding, she hired summer students from college or university with government grants to run a day camp for the kids. A group of 20 - 40 day campers and two to four student employees would launch activities from the JHS house, including a lunch. A tireless fundraiser, Sylvia also found the financial resources to pay the registration for children to do something of their own choice.

As a single mother of four children, kids and their needs were never far from Sylvia's consciousness. She started the Children's Christmas Program, a free party for the children of prisoners and fex-prisoners, which for the last few years has been held at Wonderland on Whatcom Road. The approximately 60 children in the program are provided with tokens for rides, snacks and games, and get a picture with Santa and a present. In addition to the Christmas Program, children can also register in the Kids' Program. Funded by donations from sources such as Lifers' Groups, M2/W2 and United Way, children of prisoners and ex-prisoners receive birthday and Christmas presents to help alleviate some of the stress of having an incarcerated parent.

Sylvia's commitment to improving the situation of prisoners and their families did not stop with the provision of programs. Recognizing that the structure and organization of any group impacts on its ability to do its work, she established the Abbotsford based services as its own entity in 1996 - the John Howard Society of the Fraser Valley - and became its Executive Director. They purchased a van for children's programs and prison services, and continued the family house, as well as the Information Fairs, Kids' Program and Christmas Program.

Sylvia was a woman who lived her beliefs. She fostered children in her home after her children had left. Not

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content to devote her entire working life to prisoners and their families, she also took on volunteer positions with other organizations. For many years she was on the steering committee of the Canadian Families and Corrections Network, or CFCN, a national coalition having as its mission "the development of policies, practices and programs that enable prisoners and their families to build holistic family and community relations." It offers an information and referral service to families, visitor resource centres, and publications.

Since the incorporation of the West Coast Prison Justice Society (WCPJS) in early 1994, Sylvia was our treasurer. Her commitment to prisoners' rights was genuine and deep - when asked if she wanted to relinquish her duties as treasurer when she became ill in February, she declined. When she was hospitalised in August, she asked to have the Newsletter read to her. She was excited when the WCPJS was awarded the contract to run Prisoners' Legal Services, even though by that time she was gravely ill. Every time we went to visit, she'd want to hear how the office was getting on, and signed cheques and bank forms from her bed. She was an inspiration.

Sylvia was an energetic and deeply compassionate woman who lived her life fully, and sent love and caring out into the pain and darkness of prison. Filled with genuine concern and respect for people, she was equally fair to clients, staff, coworkers and colleagues, and gained their respect and admiration in return. She was a mother and grandmother, and she was my friend. We will all miss her deeply, but we have been extraordinarily fortunate to have known her and be touched by her. Our hearts go out to her family for their loss.

PRISONERS GET THE VOTE

Eddie Rouse, Editor

The following article is being presented in two parts. This analysis by University of British Columbia Professor Michael Jackson is on the judgment brought down by the Supreme Court of Canada and what it means to federal prisoners across Canada. The first part of the article lays out the questions that must be answered. In the next issue will be the analysis of those questions by the court.

The government argued that disenfranchising prisoners from being able to vote would not infringe on constitutional rights. The court disagreed albeit in a close vote. The fact people are imprisoned should not and does not give the government the right to suspend constitutional rights. If the minority opinion of the SCC prevailed, arguably, Parliament could justify suspension of other constitutional rights not only for prisoners but possibly other groups within Canadian society.

It is important to remember that everyone is a member of society and should not be disenfranchised from taking part in its democratic functions. We only need to examine our own recent history where the aboriginal people were disallowed the vote in their own land. Successive governments enacted laws disallowing them to practice and live in their own culture. They also disenfranchised Chinese, Japanese and other people of colour by disallowing the vote in addition to denial of many other benefits society extended to the white population. It is only in the last 50 years that non-property owners were allowed to vote in civic elections even though they also contributed to building the cities and its economic base.

F. L. Morton, a professor of political science at the University of Calgary agrees with the dissenting judges (National Post Nov 2/02). He would like to have a society that would enact laws against certain segments of the population because they are deemed unworthy. Personally, I find Mr. Morton's views very distasteful. Does he not consider past

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history? One only need examine events in Europe during the 1930s or Canada during WWII where citizens were interned and the government seized their assets which were built over a lifetime. On a global scale, how about the more recent history of Africa where, in one extreme example, Caucasian people have been stripped of their rights and their property seized?

My point is, those who would willingly and forcefully take away human and civil rights due to a person's place in society should be prepared to accept the same fate. I applaud the Supreme Court Justices' position and their support for a stronger and balanced Canadian society. There is however a glitch as Andrew Coyne points out in a subsequent article (National Post Nov 4/02) that Elections Canada rules state that prisoners can only vote in their home riding. It is ludicrous to force a person to vote in a riding that they have no stake in. Most prisoners are estranged from the areas they were residing prior to arrest and the riding they live in is where they should vote. Is Elections Canada going to force other citizens to vote in a riding they have moved away from? I don't think so. If prisoners satisfy residency requirements, they should be allowed to vote in that riding.

Analysis and Highlights of *Sauvé v. Canada*

by Professor Michael Jackson, QC

The judgement of the Supreme Court in *Sauvé* bears close attention because it helps understand why the Canadian Constitution recognizes and protects the democratic and human rights of prisoners and the legal basis for limiting those rights. At a time when prisoners' rights are increasingly the subject of political and populist attack (see my critique of Michael Harris' *Con Game*) the Chief Justice of Canada's judgement reminds us that "Charter rights are not a matter of privilege or merit" and that "a simple majoritarian political preference for abolishing a right" is not "a constitutionally valid objective". The judgement is also important in explaining the role of the courts in upholding fundamental human rights and the nature of the dialogue between the Supreme Court and Parliament. In what follows I provide a review of the history of the right to vote case and highlights of the judgement.

> *Viewed together and collectively, the most striking point about the alleged objectives of paragraph 51(e) is that they are all symbolic and abstract... To accept symbolism as a legitimate reason for the denial of Charter rights seems to me to be a course fraught with danger... To adopt the other course would, it seems to me, expose us to Voltaire's famous jibe that the English had executed Admiral Byng on his own quarterdeck "pour encourager les autres"*

1. A History of Prisoner Disenfranchisement in Pre-Charter Canada *(adapted from the judgement of Mr. Justice Linden in the Federal Court of Appeal in Sauvé* [2000] 2 F.C. 117)

Prisoner disenfranchisement can be traced back to the notion of "civil death", by which one consequence of being convicted of a felony was the loss of all civil rights. One of the earliest written records of civil death occurs in the law of Edward III, De Catallis Felonum. This statute laid down the doctrine of forfeiture and stated that an outlaw forfeited

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not only his personal property but also every possible right and means of acquiring property.

The Constitutional Act, 1791 which established Upper and Lower Canada, specifically provided for prisoner disenfranchisement. It stated, in part, that "no Person shall be capable of voting at any Election of a Member to serve in such Assembly, in either of the said provinces ... who shall have been attained for Treason or Felony in any Court of Law within any of His Majesty's Dominions preserved the status quo and authorized Parliament to establish the qualifications for membership in the House of Commons and for voting.

Canada's first electoral law, The Electoral Franchise Act made no specific reference to prisoner disenfranchisement. Subsection 3(1) of that Act, however, required that voters be "of full age of twenty-one years, and ... not by this Act or any law of the Dominion of Canada, disqualified or prevented from voting." Thus, the voter disqualification contained in the Constitutional Act, 1791 and preserved by section 41 of the Constitution Act 1867 was likely the law in force at that time.

The matter was clarified in 1898. In that year, The Franchise Act, 1898 denied the vote in federal elections to "[a]ny person, who, at the time of an election, is a prisoner in a jail or prison undergoing punishment for a criminal offence". This blanket prohibition of prisoners is nearly identical to that which was in force at the time of the enactment of the Charter, and which was successfully challenged in earlier cases. The former, unconstitutional provision read as follows:

14....

> **(4) The following persons are not qualified to vote at an election, and shall not vote at an election:**
>
> (e) every person undergoing punishment as an inmate in any penal institution for the commission of any offence;

2. Prisoner disenfranchisement in the post-Charter era

Section 3 of the *Charter* provides that

> **3. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein**.

Following the enactment of the *Charter* there were a number of cases challenging both federal and provincial prisoner disenfranchisement statutes .The lower court judgements evinced little unanimity of reasoning. For example, in 1983, in *Re: Jolivet and Barker and The Queen* (1983) 1 D.L.R. (4th) 604, Mr. Justice Taylor of the British Columbia Supreme Court upheld the validity of the federal prisoner disenfranchisement provision. His Lordship reasoned that, since prisoners could not make a "free and democratic electoral choice," it was appropriate for Parliament to deny them the vote.

In 1988, in *Badger v. Canada,* (1988) 55 Man R. (2nd) 211, Mr. Justice Hirschfield of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench held inoperative provisions of the Manitoba Elections Act. However, Hirsch field

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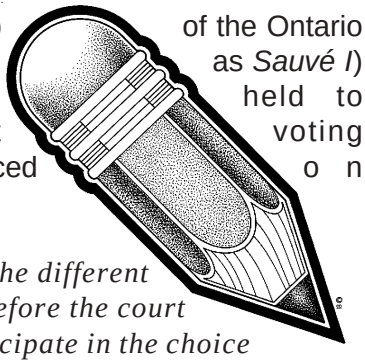
J. expressed the view that, while excluding all prisoners from voting was too broad, the disqualification of federal prisoners serving sentences for indictable offences would likely be acceptable.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal (1988) 55 D.L.R.(4th) 177, reversed the decision of Hirschfield J., holding that the prisoner disqualification was a reasonable limit on the right to vote. After summarizing voter disqualification provisions in other democratic societies, Chief Justice Monnin wrote that the connection between voter disqualification and standing as a candidate justified the complete disqualification of prisoners:

Sec. 14(4)(e) is a reasonable and demonstrably justified limit on the right to vote which is guaranteed to Canadian citizens by s. 3 of the Charter and it is therefore valid legislation. If inmates are enfranchised they will automatically be given the right to stand as candidates for federal elections. There is no disqualification provision in the Act with respect to a person's right to offer his/her services as a candidate. One only has to be a voter who can enter his name on the enumeration list and meet the residential qualification. One can recall that in recent years a member of the Sinn Fein was elected to the Mother of Parliaments at Westminster while in a penitentiary in Northern Ireland. I do not recall whether his election was annulled by the High Court of Justice of the British Parliament which has the right to rule on the eligibility of its membership.

The right to vote is therefore not an absolute one although it is essential in a democracy. Unfortunately, at times, for valid reasons, that right cannot be enforced.



Three days after the decision of Hirschfield J., Madam Justice Van Camp of the Ontario Court in *Sauvé v. Canada* (1988) 66 O.R.(2nd) 234, (hereafter referred to as *Sauvé I*) upheld as constitutional the same provision which Justice Hirschfield had held to be of no force and effect. Of some historical importance, this was the first voting challenge initiated by Rick Sauvé. Her Ladyship noted the historic value placed on ensuring a responsible electorate:

The history of the disqualification of voters over the years has reflected the different understanding of who would be responsible. The specific question now before the court is whether it is justifiable that the person who breaks the law should participate in the choice of those who make the law. The right of every citizen to vote has not been a part of our history. Historically, a vote has been deemed to more likely be responsible if the person casting it:

1. *had a demonstrable stake in the community and its public affairs;*
2. *took an active interest in public affairs, and*
3. *was adequately informed about public issues.*

Consequently, there have, in the past, been requisite property, wealth, literacy and residential qualifications. However, these different qualifications have been repealed as such criteria have come to be seen as inadequate tests of the desired responsibility. There remains then the citizenship qualification with its included qualification of age. Until now, there has persisted the disqualification of criminals and those involved in corrupt electoral practices on the ground that they are not responsible citizens, and that they have demonstrated beyond all doubt their lack of commitment to the well-being of the community

While her ladyship reasoned that neither punishment nor administrative convenience would be sufficient

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to justify the disqualification of all prisoners, she accepted that the disqualification could stand as a proxy for a responsible electorate:

However, it seems to me that Parliament was justified in limiting the right to vote with the objective that a liberal democratic regime requires a decent and responsible citizenry. Such a regime requires that the citizens obey voluntarily; the practical efficacy of laws relies on the willing acquiescence of those subject to them. The state has a role in preserving itself by the symbolic exclusion of criminals from the right to vote for the lawmakers. So also, the exclusion of the criminal from the right to vote reinforces the concept of a decent responsible citizenry essential for a liberal democracy.

In 1991, in another challenge to the *Canada Election Act*, Mr. Justice Strayer of the Federal Court, in the case of *Belczowski v. Canada* [1991] 3 F.C. 151, rejected the objectives of "affirming and maintaining the sanctity of the franchise in our democracy" and "preserving the integrity of the voting process" as being pressing and substantial objectives. A third objective was presented to Strayer J., that being to sanction offenders. Strayer J. considered this objective to be rationally connected to the legislation, but held that the legislation was neither minimally impairing nor proportionate. He wrote that:

Again, however, it cannot be said that this means of punishment impairs the section 3 right "as little as possible". Instead it directly and completely abolishes that right for the period of imprisonment. In this it is in contrast to incidental abridgment, brought about by imprisonment, of other Charter rights and freedoms such as freedom of association or assembly or expression.

Finally, with respect to voting disqualification as punishment, the government has not demonstrated to my satisfaction that the outright denial of the vote of every prison inmate is proportional to this objective. First, it may be noted that paragraph 51(e) applies no matter what the seriousness of the crime may be for which the inmate is being punished. Secondly, the actual effect on the inmate's right to vote will be quite arbitrary, depending on fortuitous circumstances such as the timing of federal elections in relation to the period he happens to serve his sentence. Thus someone in prison for two weeks for non-payment of parking fines could lose his vote for four years because his sentence happened to coincide with a federal election. On the other hand, someone sentenced to prison for five years for fraud or sexual assault and released on parole after three and one-half years might never miss the opportunity to vote. Thus there is no necessary coordination between serving of a prison sentence and the actual loss of a right to vote. Thirdly, there is a lack of proportionality between the objective and the denial of the vote in that corrections theory in Canada for the last fifty years has moved in the direction of rehabilitation and the preparation of inmates for re-entry into society.

The decision of Strayer J. was upheld by the Federal Court of Appeal. Writing for the Court Mr. Justice Hugessen found that the objectives as presented were too abstract to warrant the infringement of constitutionally protected rights. He wrote that:

Viewed together and collectively, the most striking point about the alleged objectives of paragraph 51(e) is that they are all symbolic and abstract...For my part, I must say that I have very serious doubts whether a wholly symbolic objective can ever be sufficiently important to justify the taking away of rights which are themselves so important and fundamental as to have been enshrined in our Constitution. To accept symbolism as a legitimate reason for the denial of Charter rights seems to me to be a course fraught with danger... To adopt the other course would, it seems to me, expose us to Voltaire's famous jibe that the English had executed Admiral Byng on his own quarterdeck "pour

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encourager les autres".

Assuming, however, for the sake of argument, that a purely symbolic objective may be sufficiently serious in some circumstances, it is my view that it cannot be so in this case. ***Depriving prisoners of the vote is not a ringing and unambiguous public declaration of principle. On the contrary it is an almost invisible infringement of the rights of a group of persons who, as long as they remain inside the walls are, to our national disgrace, almost universally unseen and unthought of.*** *If, as I think, therefore, the alleged symbolic objective is one whose symbolism is lost on the great majority of citizens, it is impossible to characterize that objective as pressing or substantial. (emphasis added)*

Mr. Justice Hugessen. refused to accept the government's objectives. He was of the view that the true objective of prisoner disqualification was to further degrade the inmate:

Alternatively, and far less commendably, it would appear to me that the true objective of paragraph 51(e) may be to satisfy a widely held stereotype of the prisoner as a no-good almost sub-human form of life to which all rights should be indiscriminately denied. That, it need hardly be said, is not an objective which would satisfy section 1 of the Charter

Mr. Justice Hugessen. did, however, suggest that a denial of the right to vote for people convicted of certain crimes might be acceptable. To him it was unacceptable that all prisoners be disenfranchised as a consequence of their condition. He wrote that:

A denial of the right to vote for persons convicted of treason or felony can readily be understood as a punishment for those crimes. A similar denial imposed only on those who are actually in prison looks more like a consequence of that condition than a sanction for the conduct which brought it about in the first place

With regard to proportionality, the Federal Court of Appeal in *Belczowski* agreed with the trial judge that the former provision was not proportional. Hugessen J.A. held that the legislation failed at every stage of the proportionality test. First, he contended that the fact of being in prison was not a rational indication of irresponsible citizenship:

First, there is the requirement that paragraph 51(e) be rationally connected to the alleged objectives. It is not. The fact of being in prison is not, by any means, a sure or rational indication that the prisoner is not a decent and responsible citizen. I have already mentioned fine defaulters who shockingly constituted a huge proportion of our prison population. By no means can they be described as ipso facto indecent and irresponsible. It is also not impossible in our society for persons to be in prison for reasons of conscience and I

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W.C.P.J.S Newsletter Subscription Rates

Under Review

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Individuals -	***$25.00 per year***
Organizations	***- $35.00 per year***
Students and Seniors	***- $15.00 per year***
Prisoners/Parolees	***- Free***

PRISONERS JUSTICE DAY 2002

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Prison Justice Day was a huge success here in BC. Not all, but many prisoners in both the Federal and Provincial prison systems, observed the day. As always we heard from a good number of federal prisoners across the country who wrote to tell us what the day means to them, what was happening in their area, and to share the names of those they remember.

The *Vancouver Prisoners' Justice Day Committee* organized a number of community events. This year the events included: a film night that was hosted by **Joint Effort** - a local women in prison support group and the Blinding Light Cinema. The films shown were ***'The Stanford Prison Experiment'*** plus two short films called ***'August 10th'*** and ***'Tattoo: Art Beneath the Skin'*** which were produced by Big House Productions - the Lifer's Group at Joyceville Penitentiary. Fifty-four people attended the screening, there was an information table and speaker set up by the Prisoners' Justice Day Committee. We organized a Benefit Concert that was attended by 150 people. The performances were by groups and solo artists, who all donated their skills and talents, as well there were speakers and information tables. The concert was broadcast live over the Internet and simulcast by a community radio station in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The 26th Annual Prisoners' Justice Day Memorial Rally was held on August 10th at the Vancouver Pretrial Centre. One hundred twenty people attended the two-hour rally which included ex-prisoners, prisoner support groups and community activists talking about the conditions that can lead to prisoner deaths, as well as issues covering women in prison, first nations prisoners, youth detention, education and health care for prisoners, and alternatives to incarceration. On the 11th we sat on a panel about Women in Prison at a local festival of Arts and Social Change where 30 people attended the discussion. There were eight hours of radio programming on the local community radio station Co-op Radio 102.7FM on the 10th, and programming on a local university radio station CJSF on the 9th. Members of the committee also wrote articles for local newspapers and did interviews with radio stations in CJSW in Calgary, CFRU in Guelph and CKUT in Montreal.

Nationwide we know CJSW did radio spots throughout the day, CFRU had a week of programming and CKUT did a four part series on women in prison and two hours on the 10th. The Prisoners' Justice Day Committee in Toronto held a Vigil at a local jail and a concert in the park. In Kingston there was a film night organized to commemorate the day.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to write us and all of you who helped to make August 10th a day for prisoners, family and friends to remember those who are no longer with us.
In Solidarity,

Prisoners' Justice Day Committee, Vancouver
P.O. Box 78005, 2606 Commercial Drive
Vancouver, British Columbia V5N 5W1

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doubt that as a society we feel that such persons are not decent and responsible whatever else we might think of them.

With regard to minimal impairment, Hugessen J.A. held that by virtue of the design of the legislation, the right to vote was taken away in an irregular and irrational way:

There is little that need to be said of the second branch of this part of the test which requires that the legislative measure impair the guaranteed right as little as possible. I would only note that, not only is the right taken away [page160] altogether, but, because of the very nature of the right to vote itself, it is taken away in an irregular and irrational pattern: persons who happen to be in prison on enumeration day, or voting day, no matter how short their sentence, lose the right to vote; others may serve up to four years and three hundred and sixty-four days in prison and never be

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JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

The JHS worker is available with information and assistance on the following:

- *Services for Families*
- *Accommodation for Visitors*
- *Halfway house information*
- *Parole preparation*
- *Street survival Tips*
- *Community based programs and services*
- *Social Insurance Applications*
- *BC Medical Applications*
- *Welfare rates and information*
- *Substance Abuse programs and services*
- *Counselling*

And other concerns

Visitation is provided in the following institutions

Matsqui, RHC, Ferndale, Mission, Mountain, Kent PC, Kent GP and Elbow Lake.

Please refer to the institutional brochures posted in each institution for dates and times of the JHS workers schedule.Federal prisoners in BC can call us at 1-877-640-1122

NOTICE TO ALL PRISON VISITORS

Are you aware that the ***JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY FAMILY HOUSE*** exists to serve you? We recognize that visiting a loved one who is incarcerated often means financial strain for families. If you are visiting from out of town and are finding accommodation costs difficult, you are invited to contact

JHSFV Family House
Abbotsford, BC
Telephone: (604) 852-1226

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deprived of the franchise at all.

With regard to proportionality, Hugessen J.A. held that the legislation was both over- and under-inclusive in that it made no attempt to balance the seriousness of the offender's conduct to the effects of the legislation:

Finally, the third branch of the test requires an examination of the proportionality between the effect of the legislation and its objectives. For reasons which have already been suggested, paragraph 51(e) cannot meet this test. I have already commented on the over- and under-inclusiveness of the legislation when viewed in the light of its alleged objectives. I have also indicated that the legislation makes no attempt to weigh, assess or balance the seriousness of the conduct which may have resulted in imprisonment and the resultant deprivation of a Charter guaranteed right. Finally, I have indicated that as a necessary result of the legislation, and not merely of its imperfect application, its actual operation in any particular case will depend on wholly fortuitous circumstances which bear no relationship either to the alleged objectives or to the conduct of the prisoners whose rights are thus taken away. Even assuming the alleged objectives to be valid, paragraph 51(e) simply cannot be characterized as a measured and proportionate means of achieving them with due regard for the importance of the rights taken away.

Shortly after this Court's decision in Belczowski, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the judgment of Van Camp J. in the Sauvé case (1992) 7.O.R. (3d) 481. Speaking for that Court, Madam Justice Arbour (who, after serving as Chief Prosecutor for the International War Crimes Tribunal, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 2001) agreed with Hugessen J.A. that the symbolic nature of the objectives detracted from its importance as a justification for the violation of the Charter-protected right to vote.

While Madam Justice Arbour accepted that the most plausible objective presented was to sanction offenders, she felt that objective was missed by a provision which punishes inmates generally. She wrote that:

If the objective of s. 51(e) is to punish offenders, that objective is missed altogether by a provision that punishes inmates and that is therefore both over- and under-inclusive. Whether this is viewed as a question of proportionality or objective, the result remains that it fails as a constitutional justification. The same can be said of all three objectives which, even taken collectively, are either insufficiently important or unacceptable objectives or are expressed in means which are not rationally connected with the objectives or which impair the right to vote far more than necessary. I find no need to analyze in detail the proportionality flaws of this legislation as I agree substantially with the reasons of both Strayer J. and Hugessen J.A. in Belczowski, supra, on the question of proportionality.

The Supreme Court dismissed appeals from both the decisions of the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Sauvé I* and the Federal Court of Appeal in *Belczowski* at the same time in a short three paragraph judgment.[1993] 2 S.C.R. 438.

The Attorney General of Canada has properly conceded that s. 51(e) of the Canada Elections Act, contravenes s. 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms but submits that s. 51(e) is saved under s. 1 of the Charter. We do not agree. In our view, s. 51(e) is drawn too broadly and fails to meet the proportionality test, particularly the minimal impairment component of the test, as expressed in the s. 1 jurisprudence of the Court.

Shortly before the Supreme Court's decision in the Sauvé and Belczowski matters, Parliament passed amendments to the *Canada Elections Act* which contained the prisoner disenfranchisement provision that was before the Supreme Court in *Sauvé II.* The difference between the amended version challenged in *Sauvé II* and the one struck down in *Sauvé I* is that under the amended version only prisoners serving sentences of two years or more are barred from voting.

3. The Sauvé Case Returns to The Supreme Court

The trial and subsequent appeals of Rick Sauvé's

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second challenge to the *Canada Election Act* was joined with a parallel challenge initiated by prisoners from Stoney Mountain Institution, a federal prison in Manitoba, including the Chairman of the Stony Mountain Institution Inmate Welfare Committee and the President of the Native Brotherhood. The evidence given by the prisoners themselves at the trial was summarised by Mr. Justice Weston:

Mr. Sauvé was convicted of aiding and abetting in the murder of a rival bike-gang member. He was sentenced to twenty-five years of incarceration, and was released in May of 1994. Since his release, Mr. Sauvé has been living in a half-way house, and currently works as a furniture maker. He has worked with young offenders in a program known as Youths at Risk, and is now a candidate for a Master of Arts degree in Criminology from the University of Ottawa.

Mr. Sauvé believes that offenders are not born as criminals, but become criminals as a result of circumstances. He asserted that inmates would feel more linked to society if they were granted the right to vote. Furthermore, Mr. Sauvé testified that he had not lost his right of citizenship, nor his concern for society and his country, when he was sent to prison. He implied that prisoners eventually must return to society, and indicated that prisons are hostile environments containing many hurt individuals. He talked about various voluntary efforts within the Collins Bay penal institution which were organized by prisoners, including the sponsorship of camps for disadvantaged kids, foster parents, and a special olympiad for the "developmentally handicapped".

Mr. Spence [the President of the Native Brotherhood of Stoney Mountain] has a very different criminal record from that of Mr. Sauvé. Mr. Spence is an Aboriginal who is presently serving four years of incarceration for a combination of offences, including break and enter, theft, breach of a recognizance, and assault against another Aboriginal person. His record is extensive, and dates back to 1984. Mr. Spence now considers himself on the road to rehabilitation. He agreed that he has been acting dysfunctionally, selfishly, and irresponsibly. He also agreed that the right to vote is valuable, and that he does feel a deprivation as a result of this loss. He also feels that being inside a penal institution does not mean that his family on the outside are not being affected by government actions. Mr. Spence knows that he will return to society. In his words, "at one time or another, we are going to be part of that society, whether we like it or not."

A great deal of "expert" evidence was given at trial on behalf of both the prisoners and the Government. As described by the trial judge:

The experts, on behalf of both the plaintiffs and defendants, were almost exclusively academics who advanced opinions in the areas of political theory, moral philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of law, criminology, correctional policy and penal theory. Given the issues in this case, the type of expert evidence adduced represents a most reasonable approach to assisting the Court in its determination as to whether the disenfranchisement of prisoners is justified.

Almost all of the defendants' witnesses are American citizens, American scholars, or American residents, or they have been primarily educated and trained in the United States. In contrast, most of the plaintiffs' experts are Canadian citizens, Canadian scholars, and Canadian residents…

None of the defendants' witnesses, despite their impressive academic backgrounds and contributions to scholarship, has ever considered the issue of prisoner disenfranchisement, before being retained by the Attorney General of Canada in this proceeding. Indeed, other than John Stuart Mill in a brief footnote reference, no well-known political theorist or moral philosopher, including de Tocqueville, Kant, Locke, Rousseau or Hobbes, has ever considered this question. More recent political and moral philosophers, such as Rawls, Hart, Murphy and Morris, have also not specifically considered this issue.

For the most part, with the exception of a report submitted by Dr. Colin Meredith, the evidence of the

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defendants may be characterized as academic and theoretical. While the plaintiffs also adduced considerable academic and theoretical evidence, on balance, their evidence is less lofty and is more tangible, particularly in relation to Canadian penology, social justice, and prisons. However, the evidence consists of virtually no observable phenomena. Indeed, the plaintiffs described the defendants' case as highly theoretical and abstract. While it is possible that some areas of social science theory may be confirmed by empirical observation, there was little in this case that could be assigned to that category. The evidence of the defendants was provided principally as part of an ex post facto analysis.

I was one of the experts called by the prisoners. My evidence reviewed (1) whether prisoners, in an historical and contemporary context have suffered or continue to suffer social, economic or legal disadvantage, (2) whether those who are socially or economically disadvantaged, and particularly Aboriginal persons, are disproportionately represented among prisoners, and (3) whether the denial of the vote to prisoners is consistent with federal correctional policy as reflected in the Correctional Service of Canada's Mission Statement and the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act.* At the end of my evidence I concluded:

The combination of judicial review, grievance procedures and the Office of the Correctional Investigator do not substitute for the ability to participate in the democratic process which is provided by voting for elected representatives who collectively have the power to make and change the law. The disability under which prisoners labour has a corrosive effect upon the correctional mission of encouraging prisoners to take responsibility and to develop a commitment to values and lifestyles consistent with living within society and within the law…Based upon the 25 years I have worked in prisons and with prisoners, it is my opinion that the experience of imprisonment uniquely retains the ability to crush the human spirit. A law, which, for the duration of imprisonment, crushes the democratic spirit, can only intensify that effect. To the extent that correctional law and policy is directed towards rehabilitation and reintegration, the provisions in the ***Canada Elections Act*** *denying prisoners the vote, not only have no rational connection to but indeed directly undermine and controvert that law and policy.*

Mr. Justice Wetston ruled that s. 51(e) of the *Canada Elections Act* violated the Charter guarantee of the right to vote without being demonstrably justified, and was therefore void. Although he found that the government's objectives were pressing and substantial, he concluded that the denial of voting rights to all inmates serving a sentence of two years or longer was overbroad and failed the minimal impairment test. In addition, he found that denying the right to vote "hinder[ed] the rehabilitation of offenders and their successful reintegration into the community". The negative consequences of the challenged provision were thus disproportionate to any benefits it might produce.

The majority of the Federal Court of Appeal, in a judgement written by Mr. Justice Linden, reversed the trial judge and upheld the denial of voting rights, holding that Parliament's role in maintaining and enhancing the integrity of the electoral process and in exercising the criminal law power both warranted deference. The denial of the right to vote at issue fell within a reasonable range of alternatives open to Parliament to achieve its objectives and was not overbroad or disproportionate. Madam Justice Desjardins, applying the "stringent formulation of the Oakes test," emphasized the absence of evidence of benefits flowing from the denial and would have dismissed the appeal.

The majority of the Supreme Court of Canada reversed the Federal Court of Appeal. In contrast to the three-paragraph judgement in *Sauvé I*, Sauvé *II* is a fully elaborated and articulated statement of the principles at stake. What follows is the highlights of Chief Justice McLachlin,s judgement, concurred in by Justices Iacobucci, Binnie, Arbour and LeBel:

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1 McLACHLIN C.J. *The right of every citizen to vote, guaranteed by s. 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, lies at the heart of Canadian democracy. The law at stake in this appeal denies the right to vote to a certain class of people—those serving sentences of two years or more in a correctional institution. The question is whether the government has established that this denial of the right to vote is allowed under s. 1 of the Charter as a "reasonable limit ... demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society". I conclude that it is not. The right to vote, which lies at the heart of Canadian democracy, can only be trammeled for good reason. Here, the reasons offered do not suffice.*

2 *The predecessor to s. 51(e) of the Canada Elections Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. E-2, prohibited all prison inmates from voting in federal elections, regardless of the length of their sentences. This section was held unconstitutional as an unjustified denial of the right to vote guaranteed by s. 3 of the Charter: Sauvé v. Canada (Attorney General), [1993] 2 S.C.R. 438. Parliament responded to this litigation by replacing this section with a new s. 51(e) (S.C. 1993, c. 19, s. 23), which denies the right to vote to all inmates serving sentences of two years or more.*

Issues

1. Does s. 51(e) of the Canada Elections Act infringe the guarantee of the right of all citizens to vote under s. 3 of the Charter and if so, is the infringement justified under s. 1 of the Charter?
2. Does s. 51(e) of the Canada Elections Act infringe the equality guarantee of s. 15(1) of the Charter and if so, is the infringement justified under s. 1 of the Charter?

Next issue Part II - The Analysis

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Have you renewed your subscription? The newsletter depends in part on your financial support for publishing costs. We no longer have any grant funding due to Provincial Goverment cuts to the Legal Services Society. Prior funding through the Legal Service Society has enabled us to bring this newsletter to you.

The newsletter has been distributed free to prisoners in various prisons across Canada and to Canadians who are incarcerated internationally. We have had positive feedback from prisoners and the public on the value of the information printed in the newsletter. However, we need funds to print and cover mailing costs. We are currently reviewing our policy of free mailouts due to tight budget constraints and will be reducing the number of copies that are sent into the prisons.

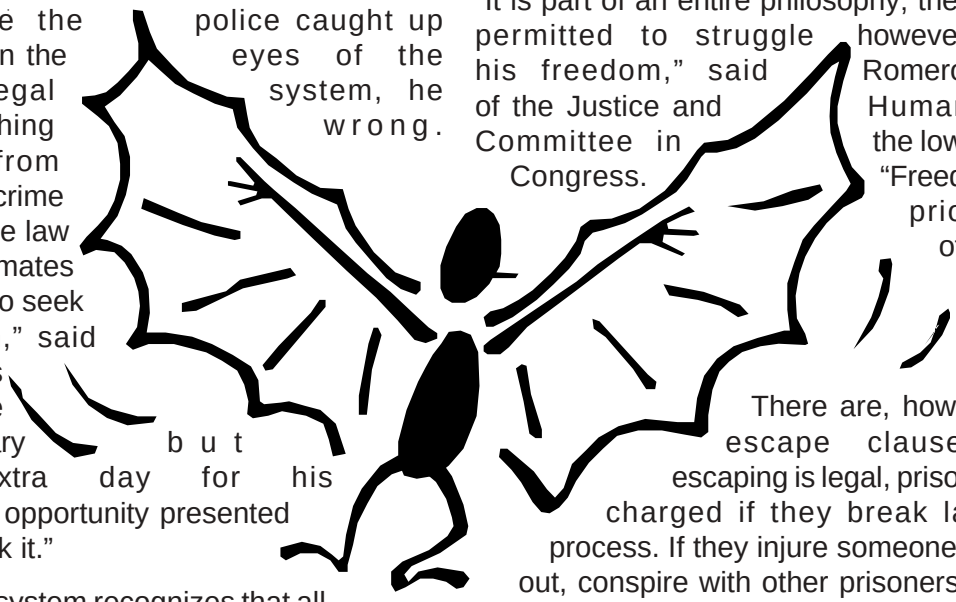
Thank you for your support in the past and your continued support in the future. Current subscription rates are listed on page 8 of this newsletter.

Mexican Jailbirds Get to Fly for Free. Law Bars Punishment for Escapes

By Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Foreign Service Friday, November 15, 2002

MEXICO CITY

The Little Mouse yearned to be free. So after three months in prison, Julio Cesar Lara, a 100-pound burglar known as Little Mouse, took his chance one night. With the speed and agility that had earned him his nickname, he slipped past his guards, crawled through the shadows, scurried over a high wall on a makeshift rope and suddenly found himself a free man. It was three weeks before the police caught up with him. But in the eyes of the Mexican legal system, he had done nothing wrong. Escaping from prison is not a crime in Mexico. "The law says that all inmates have the right to seek their freedom," said Lara, 27, who is serving three years for burglary but not a single extra day for his jailbreak. "The opportunity presented itself, and I took it."



Mexico's legal system recognizes that all people have a fundamental desire to be free. And it does not punish them for pursuing it, as some inmates recently did by disguising themselves as female visitors and tunneling to freedom using a sardine can as a shovel. Critics of the law call it one more weakness in a judicial system that is holding back Mexico's efforts to modernize. But those who support the law describe it as a humanitarian measure that respects human dignity.

"The person who tries to escape is seeking liberty, and that is deeply respected in the law," Juventino Victor Castro y Castro, a Supreme Court justice, said in an interview. "The basic desire for freedom is implicit inside every man, so trying to escape cannot be considered a crime."

The same philosophy respects the right to run from the police to avoid capture, said Jose Elias Romero Apis, a lawyer and federal legislator. Likewise, he said, it is not considered perjury in Mexico for people to lie about their guilt on the witness stand. "It is part of an entire philosophy; the accused is permitted to struggle however he can for his freedom," said Romero, president of the Justice and Human Rights Committee in the lower house of Congress. "Freedom is given priority over other values, including prison security."

There are, however, a few escape clauses. While escaping is legal, prisoners can be charged if they break laws in the process. If they injure someone on the way out, conspire with other prisoners to escape, bribe someone or damage property, they can be charged. But if, like Lara, they simply figure out a way to hop a wall or sneak out a door, they have committed no crime. "It's an extraordinary law, a charitable and spiritual law," said Sister Antonia, an American Catholic nun who has lived and worked in a Tijuana prison for 25 years. "Every person in their heart yearns to be free."

Some said the get-out-of-jail-free law gives prisoners a chance to get even with an unfair justice system. Mexican prisons are clogged with petty criminals, while bankers and politicians

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accused of stealing millions stay free. Many said the escape law gives the common man one last shot at beating the system. "There are a lot of people in jail who shouldn't be," said Javier Reyes, 38, a city public works employee. He said the justice system is especially harsh on the poor and he didn't object to them escaping. "This is a result of the unfairness of the system." But others said the law, which dates to the 1930s, sends the wrong message, especially at a time when opinion polls show crime is the Mexican public's No. 1 concern. "It's absurd," said Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico City's police chief. "The prisoner is a danger to society if he leaves prison. You cannot value the right of one person over the rights of all the others."

Alejandro Gertz Manero, top public security official in President Vicente Fox's government, called the escape law "nonsense," and said he would like to see it changed. He said officials are working on several proposed changes to the federal criminal code. But Congress would have to approve them, and Fox has had limited success persuading the opposition-controlled legislature to pass his initiatives.

Since his election in 2000, Fox has spent time and money trying to bring Mexico's chaotic prisons under control. When he took office, it was not uncommon for wealthy inmates to buy "weekend passes" to go home for parties. Some built Jacuzzis and tequila bars in their cells. But recently many of those cells have been dismantled, hundreds of corrupt guards have been fired and new surveillance equipment has been installed.

But that has not stopped prisoners from digging and climbing out of prisons-or just walking out the front door. There are no reliable statistics on escapes, but dozens are reported in the press every year.

Last month, a prisoner walked out of a prison in the state of Jalisco by showing the guards a fake ID brought by a visitor. Also last month here in Mexico City, a convicted murderer in Reclusorio Sur, the prison from which Lara escaped, sneaked out of a prison hospital where he was being treated for a toothache. Still handcuffed, he flagged down a taxi and rode away. One of the most famous escape artists here, known as "El Tarzan," made big headlines last December by sashaying out of Mexico City's Reclusorio Oriente dressed as a woman in a wig and a dress. One of the most audacious was a convicted murderer whose wife carried him out of Mexico City's Reclusorio Norte in 1998 in a suitcase she used to lug home his dirty laundry. Prison officials said he dieted until he weighed 110 pounds so he would fit. His nickname before the escape was "The Bullet Eater," but he is now referred to in the local press as "El Samsonite." He was found nine months later working in a store in Guadalajara and brought back to prison. He escaped again not long afterward and is still free.

The most infamous recent escape was that of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, one of Mexico's most notorious drug lords, who escaped from the maximum-security Puente Grande prison in Jalisco state in January 2001. Guzman bribed guards and prison officials, about 60 of whom are currently on trial. He rode out of prison hidden in a laundry truck and has not been seen since. If he is found, he will have to finish his 20-year sentence and face bribery charges. But the escape itself will earn him only the admiration of his peers, which is what Lara said he has had since he hopped the wall.

"I'm a hero to the guys who wear beige" prison uniforms, Lara said during an interview in the office of the prison warden, who jokingly calls him "our Spiderman."

Lara said he feels lucky to be alive. Escaping may not be a crime, but prison guards are allowed to shoot and kill anyone trying to escape. Lara dodged a shower of bullets fired by guards who chased him into cornfields.

He has less than two years left on his sentence and said he's looking forward to getting back to running the hamburger stand he operated before. When asked whether he would ever try to escape again, a broad grin crossed his face. "It depends," he said.

PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES LIVES!!

by Ann Pollak and Sasha Pawliuk

For those of you who did not see a copy of our letter to the prisoner committees and other groups (and reprinted in "Out of Bounds" Volume 19 No. 4) the Legal Services Society has awarded the contract to provide legal services to prisoners in the province of British Columbia to the *West Coast Prison Justice Society*. As you probably know, the Legal Services Society had a drastic funding cut from the provincial government, and as a result closed all of its branch offices and funded agency offices and replaced them with five regional offices. There was a 75% staff cut. Consequently, the Legal Services Society closed Prisoners' Legal Services as a branch office, but took a portion of the office budget and put it out to tender. That is the contract that West Coast Prison Justice Society is now fulfilling.

Under the contract, the Legal Services Society has changed the way in which you can contact us, and also the type of work that we do. You must now contact the Legal Services Society Call Centre (toll free 1-888-839-8889 or 604-681-9736 in the lower mainland) to apply for legal aid before contacting us. When applying for legal aid state your legal problem as clearly and briefly as you can. The intake workers at the Call Centre will be unable to give you any legal information or advice. They will refer you either to the Law Line for legal information, where Beth Parkinson now works, or to our office. The Legal Services Society will only refer you to our office if you have a legal issue that affects your liberty such as disciplinary charges, post suspension or detention hearings, involuntary transfers to higher security, segregation, or sentence calculation.

Due to the funding cuts, we have fewer staff in our office than you are used to. Ann Pollak, Barrister & Solicitor, is our Executive Director and works part-time, three days a week. Nick Whalley is a paralegal on a full time basis, and Karmen Lee and Tracey Dupont share a second paralegal position. Tracey Dupont also puts in double duty as our office manager, and Brenda Knoppi is our receptionist. Because we no longer have the staff or budget that we once did, we have to assess the legal merit of your case before we can give you any assistance. If your case has sufficient legal merit, you will either be assisted by one of the paralegals, also called legal advocates, or you will be referred out to private counsel.

Our experience in our first three months of operation has been mixed. We are pleased to have retained our mandate to provide legal services as required under s. 7 of the Charter, that is, the right to liberty. However, we are receiving fewer telephone calls from prisoners than we had expected, which means that either you have stopped calling, or that the Call Centre is misdirecting the telephone calls. We are attempting to clarify with the Legal Services Society if calls are being lost and would appreciate hearing from you about your experiences with the Call Centre. Our new toll free number for prisoners is *1-866-577-5245*. Unfortunately, as explained above, if you contact our office for legal help without a referral from Legal Services, we will have to direct you to apply for legal aid at their Call Centre before we can provide any service. We have also changed the registered office for the West Coast Prison Justice Society to the Prisoners' Legal Services office, so any correspondence to the West Coast Prison Justice Society, whether about the newsletter or anything else on your mind, can be sent to our new smaller office at ***204 – 32450 Simon Ave. in Abbotsford, V2T 4J2***. (Please note that the office number has changed from 205).

We are still here to help you with your prison-related legal problems. As we stated in our letter in September, we are exploring what other options may be available for funding, but primary indications are that it will be a long process before we can expand our services. Meanwhile, we will give you the best service we can with our current funding.

All the best for 2003.

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED FOR A DNA SAMPLE?

By Sasha Pawliuk

We've heard of a couple of instances lately where people on parole have been asked by their Parole Officers to come in to give a sample for the DNA data bank. Just so that there's no confusion, here is the law.

There are three ways that you can legally be compelled to give a sample for the DNA bank. First, the Judge who convicts a person of certain listed offences can order the taking of a sample.

If you have been convicted before the coming into force of the DNA provisions on June 30, 2000, an application can be made to a Judge to have a sample taken, without notice to you. This application can only be granted if you have been convicted of more than one murder at different times, have been declared a Dangerous Offender, or if you have been convicted of more than one sexual offence for which you are serving more than two years.

Finally, DNA samples can be taken from someone who is a suspect in a crime. In order to do this, the police must obtain a warrant from a Judge; again, there does not need to be any notice to the person whose sample is to be taken. The Judge may issue the warrant where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a "designated" offence has been committed (the designated offences are listed in s. 487.04 or the Criminal Code), that a bodily substance has been found around the crime scene, that the person they want to get the sample from is a party to the offence, and that DNA testing will provide evidence.

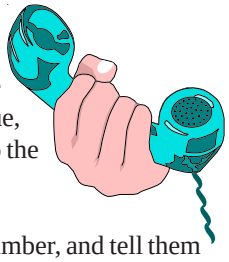
This is just a thumb nail sketch of a very detailed legislative scheme. If you need legal advice about whether any of this applies to you, call your lawyer or Lawyer Referral at 1-800-663-1919, or 604-687-3221 in the Lower Mainland. There is a small fee for the Lawyer Referral service. You can also try calling the Legal Services Society Law Line through the Call Centre at 1-888-839-8889 toll free, or 604-6819736 in the Vancouver local calling area, if you are in custody. If you are not in custody, call 1-866-577-2525 toll free or 604-408-2172 in the Vancouver calling area.

In the next issue of the Newsletter, look for an analysis of proposed changes to the DNA collection provisions.

PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICES

Prisoners' Legal Services is now a project of the West Coast Prison Justice Society. We can help you with prison and parole issues that affect your liberty, such as segregation, disciplinary hearings, involuntary transfers to higher security, parole suspensions and detention hearings.

Before you contact us, you must have a referral from the Legal Services Society. If you are in a provincial institution in the Vancouver local calling area, call 604-681-9736. If you are in a federal institution, or a provincial institution outside of the Vancouver local calling area, call 1-888-839-8889. At this number you will speak to a staff person from the Legal Services Call Centre. Tell the person as clearly as possible what your problem is - remember, Call Centre staff are not familiar with prisons.



If you have a problem that we deal with, Call Centre staff will put you through to us – our telephone hours for clients are from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. If your problem is not a liberty issue, and therefore not something that can be referred to us, ask the Call Centre staff to put you through to the Law Line for legal information.

For **conviction or sentence appeals in criminal matters**, please call the Call Centre at the above number, and tell them that you wish to commence a criminal appeal.

The West Coast Prison Justice Society was started in 1993 and incorporated in February 1994. The objectives of this organization are to further the application of justice in B.C. penitentiaries, prisons, jails and reformatories. Through our newsletter, we wish to provide prisoners with an open forum for ongoing dialogue. We will try to provide legal interpretations of recent legislation and current prison case law and to bring to the forefront the major issues which concern prisoners in B.C. We will also keep you updated with respect to current Legal Aid policies. We share the commitment to work together towards these goals.

Your responses and your suggestions are key to the success of this ongoing process. In order to be able to address the problems that you believe are most relevant to conditions inside the walls and when on parole, we rely on your questions and comments. We also wish to hear how any legal precedent and/or legislation is affecting you.

PURPOSES OF THE WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY

a) To promote the provision of legal services to people who are incarcerated in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley of British Columbia, and who are financially unable to obtain legal services privately.
b) To encourage the provision of legal services to prisoners whose problems arise because of their unique status as prisoners.
c) To promote the rule of law within prisons and penitentiaries.
d) To encourage prisoners to make use of the legal remedies at their disposal.
e) To promote the fair and equal treatment of prisoners, by assisting prisoners who face discrimination based on such matters as sex, aboriginal origin, race, colour, religion, national ethnic origin, age or mental or physical disability.
f) To encourage the application of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms inside prisons and penitentiaries.
g) To promote openness and accountability in the prisons and penitentiaries of British Columbia.
h) To promote the principle that incarcerated people must be treated with fairness and dignity.
i) To promote the abolition of prisons through the reform of the criminal justice system.

WEST COAST PRISON JUSTICE SOCIETY

We would be pleased to hear from you. Please write, or have someone write for you, to:

West Coast Prison Justice Society
204 - 32450 Simon Avenue
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 4J2