

Inspiration from Faraway Places: What We Can Learn from Other Countries

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United States represents 4.4% of
the world's population, but houses
22% of the world's prisoners.

Source: Roy Walmsley (November 21, 2013). World Prison
Population List (tenth edition). *International Centre for Prison Studies*.

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U.S. Incarcerates more Women than any other Country

201,200	United States (almost 1/3 rd of female prisoners worldwide)
84,600	China
59,200	Russian Federation
29,175	Thailand
4,060	England & Wales
449	Scotland
44	Northern Ireland

Source: Walmsley (2012). *World Female Imprisonment List, 2nd Edition*.
London, United Kingdom: International Centre for Prison Studies.

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Who are the Women and Girls?

- Most marginalized, vulnerable women
- Economically disadvantaged
- Families with domestic violence and addiction problems
- Histories of substance misuse
- Physical and mental health problems
- Minimal education and work experience
- High rates of physical and sexual abuse

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Canada

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From Theory to Practice: 25 Years of Creating Choices for Federally Sentenced Women

Jennifer Wheatley
Deputy Commissioner for Women
Correctional Service Canada

October 2015

Background: Jurisdictions

- *Jurisdictions*: Responsibility for corrections in Canada is divided between the federal government and 13 provinces and territories
- *Federal government*: administers court imposed sentences of imprisonment of 2 or more years
- *Provinces and territories*: administer sentences less than two years
- Numbers:
 - There has been a 10% increase in the federal women offender population over the last five fiscal years
 - Relatively few women are serving federal sentences (5% of the total federal offender population)
 - Continued over-representation of Aboriginal women (33%)

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Creating Choices

- Defining report that established the vision for federal women's corrections by establishing 5 foundational principles:
 - Empowerment, Meaningful and Responsible Choices, Respect and Dignity, Supportive Environment and Shared Responsibility
- Recognized that a gender based approach needed to apply to all areas of women's corrections including:
 - Infrastructure
 - Operations
 - Correctional Interventions
 - Human Resources
 - Policy

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Infrastructure: Prison for Women

- 1934: Prison for Women opened (first federal penitentiary for women in Canada)
- 1938 onward: repeated calls for the Prison's closure



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Infrastructure Regional Facilities for Women



Edmonton Institution for Women (Prairie)



Grand Valley Institution for Women (Ontario)



Joliette Institution (Quebec)



Fraser Valley Institution (Pacific)



Nova Institution for Women (Atlantic)

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Infrastructure Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge and Buffalo Sage



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Operations Maximum Security Movement Levels

- Four (4) level movement plan off the maximum security unit is embedded in policy.
- Ranges from the most restricted movement in restraints with a two (2) person uniformed escort to the least restrictive movement with no restraints and an escort.
- This approach provides capacity for women classified as maximum security to leave the unit to participate in interventions in other areas of the institution.



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Infrastructure Minimum Security Unit - The Staff

- The best is the relationships we are building out here. This is the next step to the community and if we can role model or help in some way so they don't return that is what I signed up to do.
- We are here to help support them [the women] to create choices.
- Prepare to involve yourself with the women...it is very dynamic, there is a lot you can do, there is a lot you can help the women with.



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Infrastructure Minimum Security Unit - The Women

- I was concentrating too hard on being part of the institution. I am doing better now. That is one thing I don't miss, the drama.
- The dynamic changes when you get over here. People you wouldn't normally say hi to.....here everybody becomes a little bit more open....your own walls come down a little bit.
- There is no announcement. You have to watch the clock yourself. If you don't make it to work, that is your problem. You have to be more accountable for your own actions.
- I just know that this place is worth it.



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Infrastructure Structured Living Environment Houses

- At all Women Offender Institutions
- Designed for women classified as minimum or medium security with complex mental health needs
- Initial capacity - 8 beds
- Current capacity - 12 beds to address increasing need



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Interventions Today's Correctional Programs



- *History:* women's programs were adapted from the ones developed for men – limited effectiveness
- *2003:* the first program developed specifically for women offenders was launched
- *Next phase:* revision and updating
- *2010:* two streams of correctional programs designed specifically for women implemented:
 - Mainstream model "Continuum of Care"
 - Aboriginal model "Circle of Care"
- Multi target, more efficient, building block approach

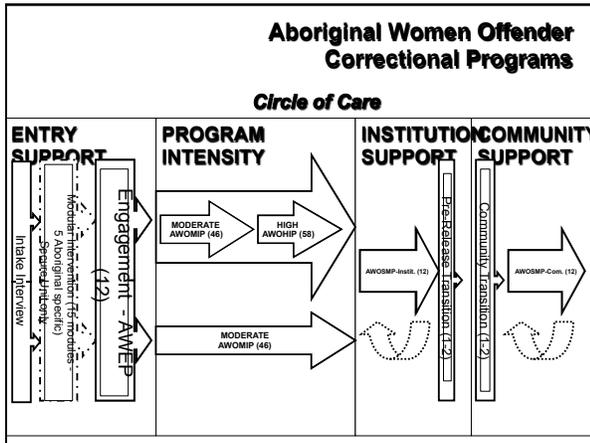
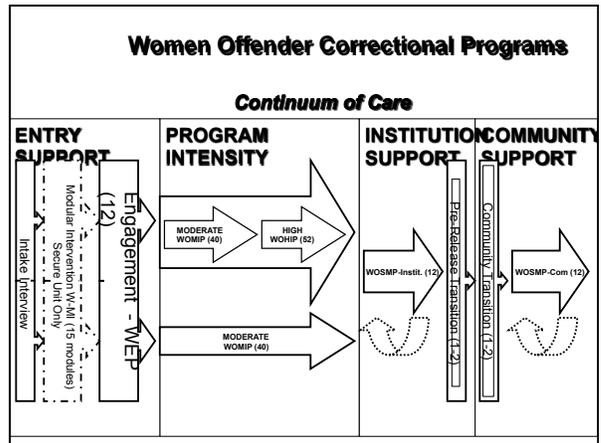
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Aboriginal Women Offender Correctional Programs



- Designed with input from Aboriginal stakeholders in the community
- Delivered by Correctional Program Officers who are Aboriginal and assisted by Elders

• Skills and strategies to reduce risk plus traditional teachings and ceremonies



Interventions Employment



- A significant area of need for women offenders
- Initiatives in place to support employment and employment readiness

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Interventions Women and Their Children



- Mother-Child Residential Program
- Childlink
- Read a Book Programs
- Special Events

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Future Focus

- Continue to focus on employment readiness for today's job market
- Continue to build community partnerships that can support meaningful activities for the women in the minimum security units
- Continue to improve services for Aboriginal women.

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For Additional Information

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Switzerland, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan,
Scotland and England.

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Switzerland

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Hindelbank Women's Prison

107 Women

- Mother and Baby unit
- Textile Program

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Czech Republic

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Světlá nad Sázavou Women's Prison

750 Women

- Several "different prisons"
- Mother and Baby unit

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Uzbekistan

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Judicial Delegation (San Diego, CA)

- Country established in 1991
(formally part of Soviet Union)
- 15 year maximum sentence
- A woman's family responsibilities
are considered in sentencing

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Scotland

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HMP & YOI Inverclyde Women's Prison

300 Women

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Scottish Prison System Goals

- Review and revise the SPS's strategy for the management of women in custody
- **Adopt a gender-sensitive approach to the design of the new prison taking account of the impact of trauma**
- **Ensure that physical security was appropriate to the risk presented by the female population i.e. robust but unobtrusive**

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Scottish Prison System (cont.)

- **Develop programmes and interventions for encouraging and enabling transformational change in women offenders founded on evidence-based research and practice**
- Think 'outside the box' and develop creative and innovative approaches
- Optimise the use of IT solutions for staff and prisoners
- Design and develop a staff training curriculum specifically for staff working with women.

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What was special about HMP Inverclyde?

- Development of a 'Women in Custody Strategy' that supported the ethos of new ways of working with women
- **Staff recruitment and selection based primarily on attitude - rather than on skills and qualifications which can be learned**
- A staff training and development curriculum designed to support the culture change required for staff who work with women

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What was special about HMP Inverclyde? (cont.)

- Introducing strengths and assets - based approaches in working with women and the use of reflective practice
- **Reviewing current practices and examining new ways of operating that will mitigate the negative impact on women such as use of restraint and separation**

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What was so special about HMP Inverclyde?

Design

- Involvement from day one of the architects' team
- Early and extensive consultation with key stakeholders and partners about their expectations of what the prison should deliver and their contribution to its success
- **The design deliberately maximised the use of natural materials, colour, light, open space, glass and landscaping to create a feeling of community and of safety.**

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What was so special about HMP Inverclyde? (cont.)

- **Unobtrusive security measures e.g. no bars on windows, no razor wire, a single perimeter and freedom for most women to move about the prison unescorted (utilising technology)**
- Incorporation of green roofs and other environmentally sustainable features
- **'Psychology of colour' informed the choice of a spring theme indicating 'new beginnings'**

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HMP & YOI Inverclyde Design Illustrations



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View to North-East



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View to the North-West Horticulture and Animal Husbandry



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Family Help Hub



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Entry Building



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Entry Building



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Entry Building



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Main Street



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Accommodation Units
looking to the North-West



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Accommodation Units



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Accommodation Unit
Internal View



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Accommodation Unit 'A' looking to the West



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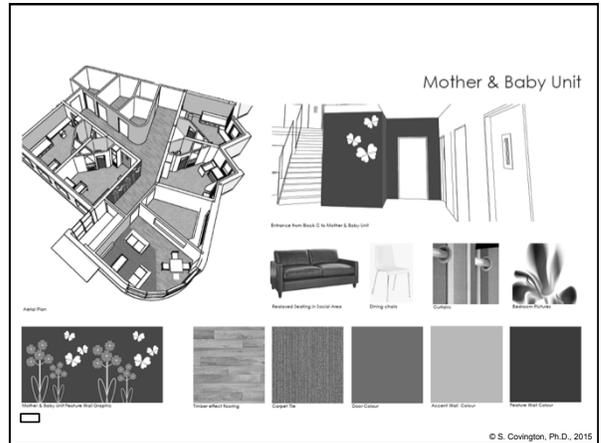
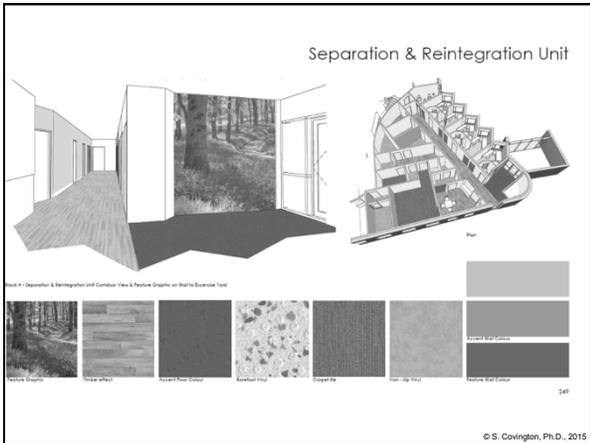
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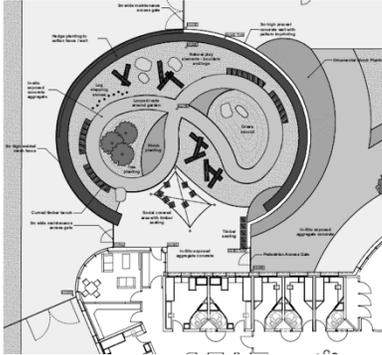
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Mother and Family Garden



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Prisoner Services Building



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Multi Faith Contemplative Garden



Landscape Precedents

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What Happened Next

- The Scottish Government was criticised by some academics and pressure groups that building a new women's prison with a capacity of 300 was not in keeping with the original recommendations by the Commission on Women Offenders (prison too large)
- A change in First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Justice
- Announcement in January 2015 that HMP Inverclyde would not go ahead and the Regional Unit at HMP Edinburgh was 'on hold' (subsequently also cancelled).

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What Happened Next (cont.)

- Scotland - wide consultation took place in March 2015 regarding new proposals for the women's estate – suggested 3 tiers – one national prison of 100, 3 regional tiers of 50 each and an unspecified number of community custody units
- Announcement on 22 June 2015 regarding new plans for women in custody i.e. one new national prison of 80 and a number of small community custody units across Scotland. Existing facilities to remain as at present.

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Vision for the Future

- Original concepts for HMP Inverclyde are transferred into the new facilities
- Fewer women are sentenced to custody
- Community alternatives are attractive to Sentencers
- Improved transitions back into community life with a joined up approach to services
- Whole system approach and earlier intervention to prevent the impact on the wider family that is often inevitable with a custodial sentence

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England

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Women's Prisons

4,060 Women in UK and Wales

- 70% Reduction of Youth in Custody
- Seclusion Units
- Clink Restaurants

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Seclusion Units

- Separate unit/wing within the prison
- Correctional officers have handcuffs only

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THE CLINK
CHARITY

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International Guidelines

Bangkok Rules
(2010)

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UN General Assembly

70 rules

193 countries unanimously voted

Examples:

- Searches by female staff only
- No shackles during labor
- No seclusion during pregnancy

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Inspiration

The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

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Reforms

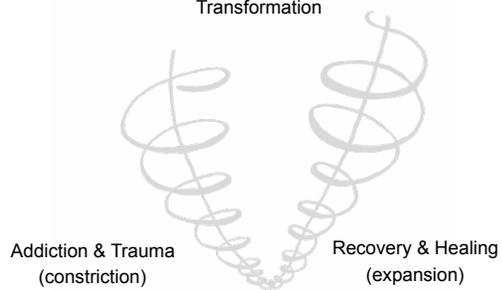
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Transformation

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Addiction & Trauma Spiral

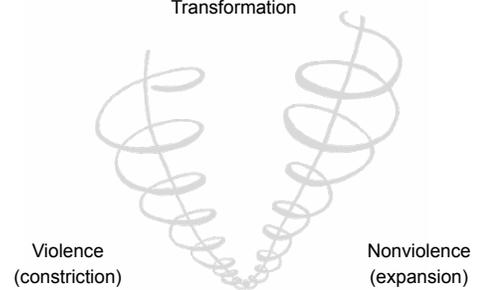
Transformation



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Spiral of Violence and Nonviolence

Transformation



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Can we be inspired to transform our criminal justice system?

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The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.

~Dostoevsky

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