



**KEEPING
YOUR FAMILY
AND COMMUNITY
SAFE**



HI, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF.

I am your neighbour, a member of your community, a volunteer, a parent.

I ALSO WORK IN A CORRECTIONAL CENTRE.

I chose this career because it is challenging, important work. And because I can make a difference – by helping to keep you, your family, and our community safe.

Those of us who work in corrections – both young offender and adult prisons – are committed professionals. We work with people who face serious obstacles in their lives. Our job is to help them become productive members of our community.

IT'S NOT AN EASY JOB. BUT IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY – AND CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US.



PART OF YOUR COMMUNITY

We are part of your community. We might be your neighbour, your son's hockey coach, or your daughter's Girl Guides leader. We are active in our churches, and volunteer to support charities like the Food Bank and the Children's Wish Foundation.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONAL?

We need to have the skills to defuse potentially violent situations. To stay calm under pressure. To think and act quickly. We need to be: confident, vigilant, trustworthy leaders and role models.

YOU CAN SLEEP AT NIGHT BECAUSE WE DON'T.

We are on the job, day and night, committed to keeping our communities safe.

Working behind the walls of an adult or young offender prison means that every day we deal with inmates who have a history of violence, are gang members, or who have serious addiction and mental health issues.

Many people don't realize that provincial prisons house anyone charged with a crime – including those charged with multiple murders, home invasions, armed robberies, or violent assaults. Even though these inmates may be headed for federal penitentiaries, they are held in remand in provincial prisons until convicted and sentenced.

OUR JOB IS STRESSFUL, OFTEN DANGEROUS — AND SOMETIMES LIFE-THREATENING.

IT IS NOT GETTING ANY EASIER

ADULT CORRECTIONAL PRISONS: BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

It's getting a lot harder to do our job. Saskatchewan adult correctional prisons are dangerously overcrowded.

Inmates are sleeping in classrooms, gyms, and chapels. These spaces are not meant to house inmates. In some of these areas, there are no washrooms or showers. The makeshift dorms don't have the security features needed to keep everyone safe.

Overcrowding takes a serious toll on corrections staff. Working in a prison that is filled beyond capacity, and which houses inmates in areas not designed for that purpose, increases the stress involved in an already highly-stressful job.

The need to have enough staff on hand to handle high inmate counts also makes it difficult for staff to get the time off needed to return to work rested and at their best.

Overcrowding also places extra stress on inmates, which leads to more danger, and more violence.

And, when spaces that should be used for training, life skills programs, spirituality or physical exercise are being used as living space, inmates are not getting the opportunity to rehabilitate – so when they do go back into the community, they can become productive, contributing members of society.

THE FACTS:

There has been a 34% increase in the number of inmates in the provincial adult correctional system in the last ten years. Here's what corrections workers are saying:

WHAT DOES OVERCROWDING MEAN TO FRONTLINE CORRECTIONS STAFF?

"Overcrowding makes it tougher to deal with the gang violence. When the staff/inmate ratio is inadequate or if a centre is running short-staffed, it's not easy trying to keep everyone safe."

"We are professionals, and continue to do our job, but it is frustrating that the concerns we raise seem to fall on deaf ears."

"It's a struggle to get the resources to ensure everything runs safely."

MORE THAN JUST A GUARD

Adult and youth corrections workers are trained professionals who know our job is more than just being a guard. It's about being a:

- role model
- counsellor
- first responder
- problem solver
- caseworker

THE YOUNG OFFENDER CHALLENGE

Working with young offenders has just as many challenges as working with adults. The charges against young offenders are the same as those for adult inmates: murder, aggravated or sexual assault, weapons, armed robbery, and home invasions.

Many young offenders are involved in gangs. Many struggle with mental health and addictions issues. We work with them in open living units, and have many of the same challenges as they do in adult corrections. There are not enough resources and there is always the risk that a situation will escalate to violence.

Working with young offenders means you need to be:

- resourceful
- resilient
- committed

MEETING CONFLICTS AND CRISES HEAD ON

It's a challenge. But adult and youth corrections workers are professionals and they meet the daily conflicts and crises head on. We are there, dedicated to public safety, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We take pride in our job and our goal each and every day is to go home safely to our families, having done our day's work – keeping you and your families and communities safe.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

We are committed to you and we are working to meet the challenges.
We know there is no easy way.
We put ourselves in high-risk situations every day – because we know
what is at stake: The safety and security of our families – and our
communities.

**PUBLIC CORRECTIONS WORKERS – ADULT AND YOUTH.
TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS.
KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE.**

