



ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



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A MESSAGE FROM EMILIE COYLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CAEFS

I am so pleased to be sharing with you the 2021-2022 Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies annual report. This last year continued to be marked by uncertainty and change which was met with ingenuity and care. While so much of what we encountered was new and sometimes unexpected it provided opportunities for creative responses to longstanding systemic issues.

I begin my remarks by thanking Cherylanne James for our beautiful cover art for this report. In discussing what we were looking for for this design with Cherylanne, we asked her to create something that would embody love, community, and connection. We were thrilled with her decision to represent the seven grandfathers teaching in her work and her decision to make the love teaching the central hand. We are so grateful to her. You can read Cherylanne's statement about her piece on page 31. CAEFS is not an Indigenous organization, but we are continually working to challenge settler colonial ways of working and are always learning how we can better work in solidarity towards decolonization – an absolutely necessity given the abhorrent ongoing colonial violence that has resulted in such disproportionate numbers of Indigenous women and gender diverse people in prison. We also recognize that learning is not enough, and focused our 2021 Annual General Meeting on moving our own organization and our membership “from knowing to doing” when it comes to ending the multiple crises facing Indigenous women and gender-diverse people. You can read more about this AGM, and other work that centres the experiences

and rights of Indigenous women and gender diverse people throughout this report.

It was with great joy that we welcomed eight new staff members this year. Our team is now located across five provinces and territories. We also made the decision to transition away from a physical office and have been relying upon technological supports to create a connected and effective virtual work space.

Despite the world's evolution in technological capabilities during the pandemic that helped to keep us all connected, the reality for people who were incarcerated during that time was that they continued to be subjected to long durations of lockdowns with limited to no contact with loved ones or community supports. Our in-person prison advocacy work was done in fits and starts as communities opened and then closed down again with each subsequent wave of COVID.

Additionally, we observed that the issues faced by criminalized women and gender diverse people living in community were exacerbated by the reality of the pandemic, with housing shortages and lack of resources—clear impediments to engaging and integrating into community.

This year also brought with it the continuation of our capacity building project as we focused on connecting with our membership and with external partners in concrete ways. In the new year, in addition to various other initiatives, we look forward to our partnership on Indigenous maternal child health, as well as funding for critical engagement on systems

change in order to ensure that people with lived experience of incarceration are able to contribute in real ways to decisions that affect their lives.

Thanks to funding received in late 2021, we were also able to move forward on some key actions related to housing provision for the women and gender-diverse people served by our membership. You can read about this on page 12.

This year we welcomed a new Board member from Ontario, Kelly Redmond. Welcome Kelly!

This year, we also say goodbye and give thanks for the many years that Dawn Ferris and Erin Belavance gave to our Board of Directors. Dawn, stepped forward and ushered CAEFS

through our new evolution as an organization. We are grateful for her leadership and dedication. We also thank Erin for her many years of service and outstanding commitment to the organization. We will miss them very much.

Thus, our work could be characterized over the last year as having been both tremendously successful and yet marred by the tragedy of ongoing harm to some of our society's most marginalized and excluded people. We believe that how we relate to each other and organize ourselves can and must be different. It is with that in mind, that we are motivated by our vision of a world without prisons with strong and well-resourced communities for everyone

In love and solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emilie Coyle". The script is fluid and cursive.

EMILIE COYLE

Executive Director of the Canadian Association
of Elizabeth Fry Societies

A MESSAGE FROM DAWN FERRIS, PRESIDENT OF THE CAEFS BOARD

I write this message with mixed emotions. This is my last Annual Report as President of CAEFS; it's been a complicated three years. I knew in 2019 that things would be difficult but we needed and wanted change and we brought it. Together we were resolved and strong and we supported one another through it all.

It is with a broken heart I let you all know that my decision to step down as President was made after much internal deliberation; it was not an easy decision. As I have said to many women in the past as they've moved away from working with CAEFS over the years "the work will always be there, when you're ready to return we will happily have you back", I am now telling myself this very same thing.

No one could have predicted that the world would shut down in 2020 due to a global pandemic. We have done amazing work despite it all, we've hired an amazing Executive Director (who started full time three months prior to start of the COVID-19 pandemic) who has managed to steer this organization through some of the most difficult times in our history.

I wish you all the best and please know that I will always have a place in my heart for everyone who is part of the CAEFS network. Life is complicated. The one thing that I've really found helpful throughout the challenges of this pandemic is that we need to remain kind, you never know what someone is dealing with. The work that we do, that you've done and will continue to do is so very important.

Thank you / Miigwetch / Wel'alin / Merci



A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Dawn Ferris".

DAWN FERRIS
PRESIDENT OF THE CAEFS BOARD

WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS) works to address the persistent ways in which women and gender-diverse people impacted by criminalization are denied humanity and excluded from community.

CAEFS is a member-driven organization, whose membership is comprised of 24 self-governing organizations who work with us towards a world without prisons with strong and well-

resourced communities for everyone. Member organizations also organize themselves into regional councils.

CAEFS itself is a self-governing organization, with a governance board comprised of representatives from our membership. Our team is comprised of full and part-time staff and volunteer regional advocates, located from coast to coast.

National Office Team

Alphabetical, by first name.

- **Brianna Bourassa**, Regional Coordinator: Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- **Darlene MacEachern**, Regional Coordinator: Atlantic
- **Emilie Coyle**, Executive Director
- **Jackie Omstead**, Director: Operations and Engagement
- **Johanne Wendy Bariteau**, Regional Coordinator: Ontario and Quebec
- **Nat Pace**, Housing Development Coordinator
- **Nyki Kish**, Director: Systems Change and Advocacy
- **Ruchika Gothoskar**, Administrative Assistant
- **Sarah Gelbard**, Housing Development Coordinator
- **Sheri Pranteau**, Advocacy Liaison
- **Yoriko Susanj**, Regional Coordinator: Pacific and Prairies



Our national office team



Featured here from left to right are members of the national office team: Johanne, Brianna, and Sheri. Followed by Emilie and Jackie.

Board

Executive

- **Dawn Ferris**, President
- **Toni Sinclair**, Vice President, Staff Representation & Regional Advocate (Prairie Region)
- **Amelia Reimer**, Treasurer & Board Representative (Atlantic Region)
- **Patti Tait**, Indigenous Women's Representative

Board Members

Alphabetical, by first name.

- **Axelle Francois**, Board Representative (Quebec Region)
- **Diane Bergeron**, Board Representative (Quebec Region)
- **Ruth Gagnon**, Staff Representative & Regional Advocate (Quebec Region)
- **Jillian Barrington**, Board Representative (Atlantic Region)
- **Judy Murphy**, Staff Representative & Regional Advocate (Atlantic Region)
- **Cory Roslyn**, Staff Representative (Ontario Region)
- **Kelly Redmond**, Board Representative (Ontario Region)
- **Jennifer Murphy**, Board Representative (Pacific Region)
- **Cassandra Schwarz**, Staff Representative (Pacific Region)



◀ Patti Tait
(Indigenous Women's
Representation)
and Emilie Coyle
(Executive Director)

Regional Advocates

Alphabetical, by first name.

- **Aleksandra Zajko**, Quebec
- **Caitlin Dick**, Prairies
- **Cassandra Schwarz**, Pacific
- **Cheyenne Arnold-Cunningham**, Pacific
- **Cory Roslyn**, Ontario
- **Courtney Pyrke**, Atlantic
- **Gabriela Vragovic**, Quebec
- **Judy Murphy**, Atlantic
- **Kate Engel**, Prairies
- **Mukisa Kakembo**, Atlantic
- **Nancy Brar**, Pacific
- **Patti Tait**, Pacific
- **Sabra Rezaei**, Ontario
- **Sukpreet Sangha**, Ontario
- **Toni Sinclair**, Prairies
- **Ruth Gagnon**, Quebec
- **Rye Dutton**, Pacific / Ontario



▲ Johanne Wendy Bariteau (regional coordinator for Ontario and Quebec) at an event with (from left to right) Ruth, Gabriella, and Aleksandra from the Quebec regional advocacy team.

Regional Councils

- Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario (CEFSO)
- Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba Elizabeth Fry Societies (ASMEFS)
- Pacific Elizabeth Fry Societies (PREFS)

Member Societies

Atlantic

- Elizabeth Fry New Brunswick
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Cape Breton
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Newfoundland and Labrador

Quebec

- Société Elizabeth Fry Quebec

Ontario

- Elizabeth Fry Society of Ottawa
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough
- Elizabeth Fry Toronto
- Elizabeth Fry Simcoe Muskoka
- Elizabeth Fry Peel Halton
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Northeastern Ontario
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario
- Elizabeth Fry Society Southern Ontario Region
- Elizabeth Fry Kingston

Prairies

- Elizabeth Fry Manitoba
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Northern Alberta

Pacific

- Kamloops & District Elizabeth Fry Society
- Prince George and District Elizabeth Fry Society
- Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
- The South Cariboo Elizabeth Fry Society
- Archway Society



▲
Emilie Coyle (Executive Director) visits Toni Sinclair (Executive Director of Elizabeth Fry Northern Alberta and the vice president of CAEFS board) and some of her team at Elizabeth Fry Northern Alberta.

ENGAGEMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

For Our Membership

As a member-driven association, CAEFS works closely with our member societies to share resources and knowledge, build partnerships, develop sustainable funding models, and convene on key advocacy issues. We also host internal events and trainings for our membership, often relating to the key advocacy issues we are working on. These workshops and events are often accompanied with “primers” and /or internal memos to support the implementation of lessons learned.

Our internal capacity building work is made possible through our Breaking the Cycle project. Launched in late 2019, Breaking the Cycle (BTC) is a four-year project rooted in ending the cycles of incarceration for women and gender-diverse people in Canada. A critical part of this work is collaborating with our local member societies to develop and strengthen their capacity to meet the needs of criminalized women and gender diverse people. This project is funded through a capacity building grant from Women and Gender Equality Canada.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Learning Exchange

A monthly “Learning Exchange” that brings together local Elizabeth Fry staff and volunteers from across the country to discuss source material that speaks to prevalent issues facing criminalized women and gender-diverse people. These exchanges create space for our membership to brainstorm how we can use

our shared knowledge to address these issues while doing our work more equitably and thoughtfully. This year’s learning exchange was guided by “An Indigenous Abolitionist Study Guide”, developed by the Toronto Abolition Convergence and available on the Yellowhead Institute’s website.

Professional Development Workshops & Debrief sessions

To support our member organizations and regional advocates, CAEFS arranged two workshop series with Forouz Salari. Forouz is a registered social worker, psychotherapist and clinical consultant. She worked with CAEFS to develop workshops that focused on resourcing attendees with practical tools and perspectives on navigating the emotional and physical toll of advocacy and social-change work.

In June of 2021, Forouz designed two sessions for our network: Supporting Ourselves & Our Teams and Supporting the People We Work With. These sessions focused on different perspectives related to burnout and trauma; reflections on power, privilege, discrimination and oppression; cultivating professional boundaries; trauma-informed and equitable practice; and fostering resilience and tools for staying within / expanding our windows of tolerance. In January 2022, Forouz led another session for CAEFS focusing on Healing Through Burnout, which expanded on many of the same topics.

Recognizing the need for more ongoing support and opportunities to debrief, CAEFS also arranged for Forouz to facilitate quarterly debrief sessions with regional advocates and

with staff. Forouz was also available for 1:1 support sessions for CAEFS staff, advocates, and leadership on an as-needed basis.

CAEFS is pleased to be continuing our work with Forouz in the next fiscal year.

2021 Conference – Human Rights in Action

On May 6th, 2021, CAEFS hosted a free virtual one-day conference to engage our network and partners in the human rights issues impacting criminalized and incarcerated women and gender-diverse people. Over 80 participants joined for the day to engage in presentations. These presentations included:

- Indigenous Peer Support Work: Helping Indigenous Women Access & Connect with their Culture
- “What if to express my gender I need a world without prisons?”
- Abolition and Prison Labour
- Race, Disability, and Incarceration
- Food Security, Connection to Place and Cycles of Incarceration

Thank you to all our presenters and guests.

Black Women Under State: A Conversation with Idil Abdillahi

On February 15th 2022, we hosted a virtual interview with Dr. Idil Abdillahi on her new book “Black Women Under State: Surveillance, Poverty, & the Violence of Social Assistance”. Idil spoke to our member societies, regional advocates, and board members about the realities of Black women who are living at the intersections of race, poverty, surveillance, and social services.

MEETINGS

Standing Executive Director Meetings

Bi-monthly meetings for the executive directors (EDs) of local Elizabeth Fry Societies. These meetings enable EDs to share best-practices, collaborate, and discuss key issues. Helping our membership to do their work more effectively and sustainably through research and collaboration on joint funding proposals and the preparation of briefs to government that represent our shared interests. Occasionally, guest speakers are invited to help inform our work and provide insight into key issues.



◀ Accompanying image to our “Human Rights in Action” Conference.

Annual General Meeting 2021: “From Knowing to Doing” – Working with Indigenous Partners to End the Criminalization of Indigenous Women, Trans, Non-Binary, and Two Spirit People”.

On September 25th, 2021, we gathered online for our Annual General Meeting, featuring a conversation titled, “From Knowing to Doing: Working with Indigenous Partners to End the Criminalization of Indigenous Women, Trans, Non-Binary, and Two Spirit People”. The conversation was hosted by Toni Sinclair, vice-president of CAEFS’ board of directors and executive director of Elizabeth Fry Northern Alberta.

Joining her in conversation was:

- Jocelyn Formsma, Executive Director, National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)
- Raha Ravasian, Project Manager, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada
- Melanie Omeniho, President, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak

- Alison Bray, Harm Reduction - Community Education Coordinator, Ontario Aboriginal HIV AIDS Strategy (OAHAS)

This conversation was prompted by our desire to act. As Toni articulated in her introduction to the conversation: “We all know the statistics about the overrepresentation and over criminalization of Indigenous people and we all know the reports – now what do we need to do?”. Given that CAEFS is dedicated to working towards abolition, the growing number of women and gender diverse people - and especially Indigenous women - pushes us to recognize that we continue to have work to do. As an organization that is not Indigenous led, we must align ourselves with Indigenous organizations, people, and leaders to be effective in our work and think carefully about our role.

This conversation was a critical step in moving us forward in developing meaningful partnerships and prompting us to think differently. Below, you will find a graphic recording of the conversation.



◀ A graphic recording of the panel discussion from our 2021 AGM, created by “Graphic Journeys”.

Meeting with Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Youth, Marci Ien

On January 12th, 2022, CAEFS arranged for executive directors of local Elizabeth Fry Societies to meet with the newly appointed minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth (WAGEY), Marci Ien. Executive directors had the opportunity to meet with Minister Ien and discuss their organizational priorities and challenges. They also provided information on their WAGEY funded projects, and learned about WAGEY's direction for the coming years.



▲ A screenshot of virtual meeting attendees, including Minister Ien

JOINT FUNDING APPLICATIONS AND INITIATIVES

CAEFS recruited and trained two grant writers on our organizational priorities, language, and values to ensure that grant applications are reflective of our organisational positions and language. CAEFS worked with these grant writers to find and complete capacity building grants for our membership, both regionally and nationally.

Regional Funding Initiatives

With the support of CAEFS' Atlantic Regional Coordinator, The Atlantic region successfully applied for regional funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation and the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality and Youth. They now have funding for two projects under this activity (four were submitted and two are awaiting a response). The first funded project, funded by WAGEY, will support women and gender diverse people leaving situations of human trafficking. For this project, the Atlantic Elizabeth Fry Societies have hired a full-time coordinator in Saint John, New Brunswick and part time staff in Sydney, St. John's, and Truro, Nova Scotia. They are also employing expert consultants in each area for 10 hours a month. The second project is with the Canadian Women's Foundation, which will fund Atlantic Elizabeth Frys to provide addictions



▲ Atlantic Region

program to mitigate suspensions and facilitate reintegration. CAEFS regional coordinator continues to work with stakeholders in Labrador to develop a proposal to provide 2 full-time systemic coordinators to lead consultation and assessments on issues impacting the criminalization and over incarceration of indigenous women in Labrador. We also continue to assist with the development of services in PEI. Overall, the capacity in the Atlantic has increased by 8 new staff people over the last fiscal year. Funding applications continue to be submitted for the Pacific and Prairie regions.

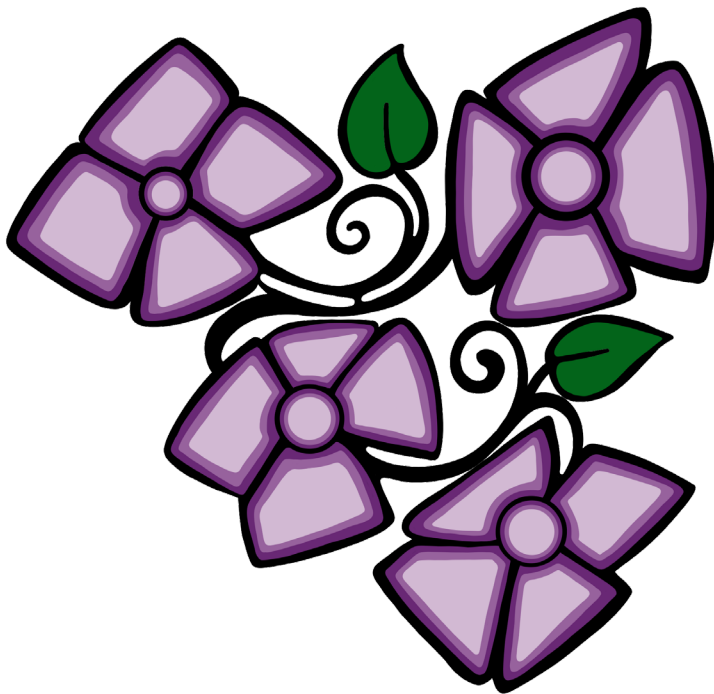
See page 16 for more details about funding initiatives in the northern territories.

National Funding Initiatives

CAEFS submitted a number of joint funding applications to support membership-wide collaboration in addressing critical needs and challenges.

CAEFS member societies collaborated to submit funding applications for a national record suspension program through The Ministry of Public Safety's National Voluntary Organizations Grants program. If funded, this program will provide the essential support to women and gender diverse people who are seeking a record suspension.

CAEFS accessed two separate funding streams through government and foundation funds to assist local Elizabeth Fry member societies with much needed COVID-19 support. This support included efforts to decarcerate women and gender-diverse people where possible and provide wrap-around programming support and bedspace.



FEATURED WORK: HOUSING AND SUPERVISED RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

In late 2021, the CAEFS hired a team to work to advance ongoing housing and residential research and strategy development work for our membership. This project was funded through the Canadian Women's Foundation's Safer + Stronger Grants and the Northpine Foundation.

Membership Capacity-Building

The team is working directly with CAEFS' membership to collaboratively create resources, and advocacy tools. As a first step to robust strategy building, the team developed the "CAEFS Housing and Residential Portrait." The report found that CAEFS members are growing rapidly as housing and housing-related service providers, with important geographic variation. Some members have successfully adopted and adapted emerging development practices and models such as modular building, hotel conversions, and community land trusts.

The Portrait highlights several policy areas for further investigation including Indigenous housing needs, avoiding displacement of "hard to house" individuals, trans and gender-diverse inclusion, and orienting housing and residential options towards the mission of abolition. As a next step, the team is continuing to develop network engagements and engagements with people with lived experience of incarceration with the goal of building further capacity through knowledge sharing and collaboration opportunities.

The housing team is also assisting member societies seeking housing-related advice

and information. The team wrote a briefing document about the underfunding of Community Residential Facilities and request for alternative funding models as part of a network-wide presentation to Correctional Services of Canada. The team is also assisting a member society to challenge a land-use zoning restriction on a potential new residential facility. They have begun to work on knowledge sharing platforms, knowledge exchange workshops, and databases that will facilitate the sharing of best practices, development strategies, and funding applications across the network.

Knowledge Sharing and Advocacy

Using a trauma-informed, intersectional, and gender-based lens, the team is conducting ongoing research into the bi-directional relationship between housing insecurity and criminalization. This work recognizes how housing needs disproportionately and uniquely impact women, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+, and/or racialized groups. This year, the team conducted an extensive literature review to better understand the complex nature of the interconnections between barriers to accessing and retaining safe and adequate housing and involvement with the criminal justice system.

The recognition of housing as a human right by the Government of Canada has created new funding, advocacy, and capacity-building opportunities. The housing team is working to center the experiences of criminalized women and gender-diverse people and support their position as rights-holder within these emerging funding, legislative, and accountability frameworks.

For the Sector

ASSOCIATIONS

National Associations Active in Criminal Justice

As a member of the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice, CAEFS works with other members to enhance the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a humane, fair, equitable and effective justice system. Emilie Coyle, CAEFS executive director, is the vice president of the board of the NAACJ. More information about the NAACJ and other members can be found on their website.

Canadian Prison Law Association

The Canadian Prison Law Association provides a forum for lawyers and others who work on behalf of incarcerated people, and who seek to protect and promote the constitutional rights, interests and privileges of incarcerated people in Canada and around the world. CAEFS' executive director is an active member of the association.

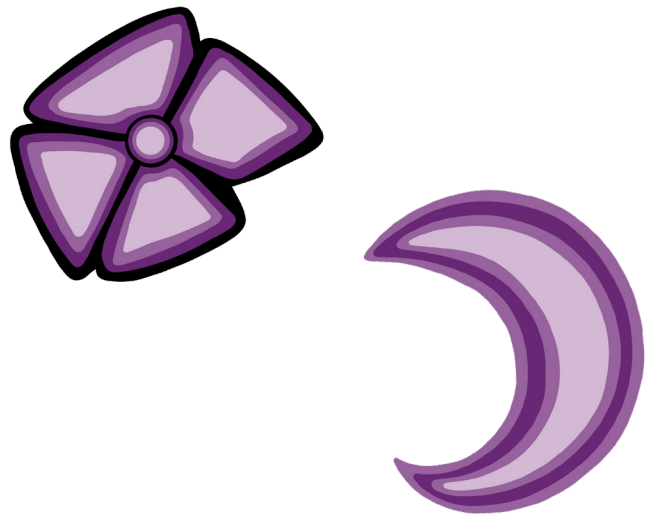
Canadian Bar Association

CAEFS' executive director is a member of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA), where we collaborate with others in the legal sector on issues related to prison law, criminal law, and other areas of law that impact the work of CAEFS.

NATIONAL ASSET & NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEYS

Throughout the course of this year, CAEFS regional coordinators have circulated a needs and asset assessment survey to our member societies, external partners, and to women and gender-diverse people who have been or are federally incarcerated. These surveys sought to understand the assets and needs of organizations that support criminalized and/or incarcerated women and gender-diverse people, and how those align with the needs of women and gender-diverse people who access their services. Data collection was a success, with responses from a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals.

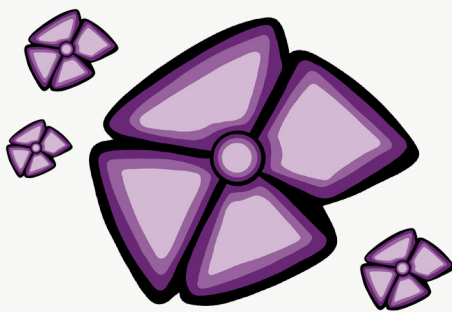
Information from these surveys will inform CAEFS' ongoing and future capacity building work, including a handbook focused on release and reintegration to support people being released from federal prison.



FEATURED WORK: NORTHERN CAPACITY BUILDING

Creating a New Position

In 2021, CAEFS created the position of Northern Regional Coordinator for the Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut in response to an identified need. With no membership societies in any of the three territories, CAEFS felt it was important to develop connections with First Nation, Metis, and Inuit governments and communities, Indigenous organizations, and non-profit organizations currently supporting criminalized women and gender-diverse people from the northern territories. CAEFS' work in the territories is driven by a desire to support the rights of Indigenous governments and communities to self-determination and support community-based initiatives.



Outreach

CAEFS' Northern Regional Coordinator has met and collaborated with numerous governments and organizations located in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, such as the Council of Yukon First Nations, Yukon First Nation governments, Northwest Territories Indigenous governments, Yukon Corrections, federal parole officers in both Yukon and Northwest Territories, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice for Northwest Territories, transition home operators in both territories, non-profits, and criminal defense lawyers representing justice-involved people in the territorial and federal prisons.

Breaking The Cycle surveys were provided to potential external service providers to learn about the current supports being offered to criminalized folks in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The data collected from these surveys helped inform CAEFS' conversations with local service providers as well as determine the community need and interest in establishing local Elizabeth Fry membership societies. All programming administered by future membership societies in the territories will be co-created and co-developed by Indigenous governments and organizations to ensure cultural safety.

Collaboration

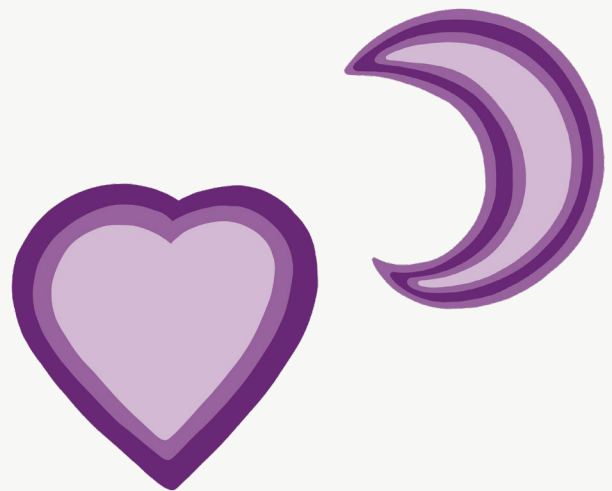
CAEFS is currently working on several projects with local organizations from the Yukon Territory. COVID-19 has made in-person trust building challenging, however CAEFS hopes that 2022 will allow for safe community visits.

CAEFS has partnered with the Yukon Status of Women's Council (YSWC) on a case study to explore the community parole options for federally sentenced Indigenous women and gender-diverse people in the Yukon. This project is being funded by the Canadian Court Challenges Program. The case study examines whether the disparity in services available to men exiting prison compared to those available to women is gender-based discrimination under section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. CAEFS and YSWC will be releasing their case study in conjunction with a legal memo prepared by Yukon lawyer, Vincent Larochelle.

CAEFS is also working to unpack the community safety issues surrounding Yukon's

Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCAN). This Act allows for community members to report alleged suspicious activities, such as sex work, drug trafficking, and bootlegging to SCAN authorities. SCAN officers can investigate and handle complaints about the alleged activity outside of the criminal justice system. Section 3(2) of the Act allows for complaints to be resolved via landlords terminating a lease or tenancy with only five days' notice, regardless of tenancy agreements. While SCAN disproportionately impacts marginalized people, it is liked by some communities in the territory. Through this project CAEFS will meet with these communities to learn how SCAN impacts them and how our organization can support alternative community safety practices.

CAEFS currently has three funding applications in with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada, EFry Northern Alberta, and Liard Aboriginal Women's Society to support ongoing work in the northern territories.



For the Public

PRESS RELEASES, PUBLIC STATEMENTS, OPEN LETTERS

CAEFS works to raise public awareness about our work and key issues impacting criminalized women and gender-diverse people. One of the ways that we do this is through regular public communication, including press releases, public statements, and open letters. A review of our these documents offers an “at a glance” look at some of the overarching themes of our work this year, including: the overincarceration and disproportionate punishment of Indigenous people, the rights of trans people in prison, challenging the practice of ‘dry celling’, and working to uphold the rights of criminalized and incarcerated people. These documents are accessible on our [website](#).

- February 2022: The Failure of Creating Choices: CAEFS Response to the Office of the Correctional Investigator’s 2020-2021 Annual Report
- December 2021: Response to the OCI’s Recent Reporting “Proportion of Indigenous Women in Federal Custody Nears 50%”
- November 2021: The Government Must Act to End Abusive Solitary Confinement
- November 2021: Advocates Call on Government and CSC to Act to Protect the Rights of Trans Prisoners
- November 2021: Advocates Celebrate “Important win” Following the Striking Down of Inhumane Dry Cell Law in Nova Scotia
- September 2021: Letter of Solidarity with the Faqiri Family
- August 2021: Prisoners’ Justice Day 2021
- June 2021: CAEFS’ Public Statement Regarding a June 2nd, 2021 Open Letter

- May 2021: Announcing the Launch of Elizabeth Fry Week 2021: Human Rights in Action
- May 2021: “The Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Society’s Statement on the discovery of 215 children at a Kamloops Residential School”

ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

This year, CAEFS had approximately 240 number of traditional media mentions, ranging from local newspapers to national and international publications

CAEFS executive director and director of operations and engagement also co-authored an opinion piece “The Use of Solitary Confinement in Canada” published online in Policy Options in January 2022.

PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS

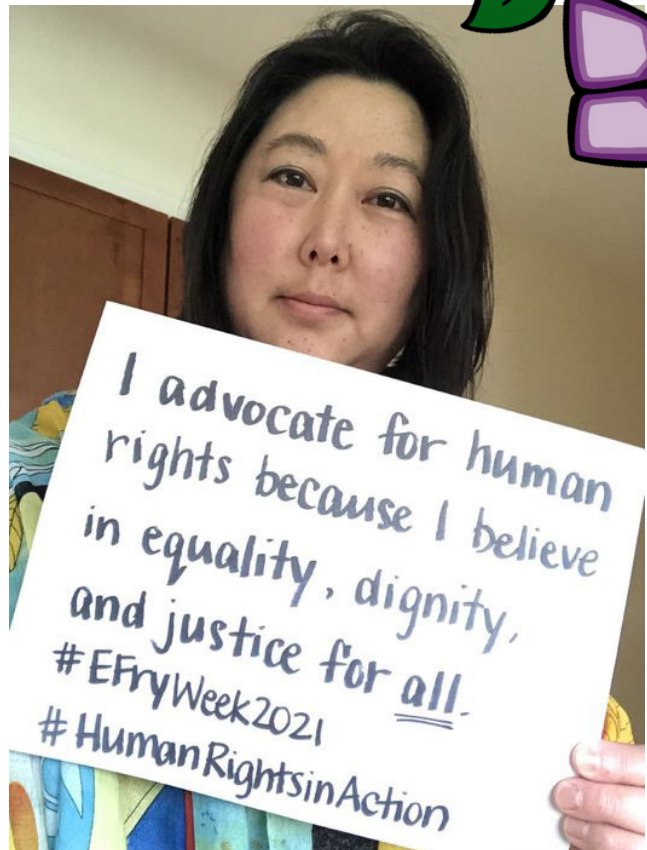
- June 2021: Panelist for “No One Left Behind: Reflections on Human Rights and Civil Liberties During the COVID-19 Pandemic”, organized by BC Civil Liberties Association
- July 2021- Guest speaker in Criminal Law & Procedure class at Osgoode Hall. CAEFS presented on our work alongside the West Coast Leaf
- August 2021: Guest speaker at Elizabeth Fry Northern Alberta’s Annual General Meeting
- January & February 2022: Presentation to two high school classes (Edmonton, Alberta and Ottawa, Ontario) on CAEFS and our work.
- February 2022: Presentation to social work students at the University of Victoria on prison abolition and the work of CAEFS.

EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

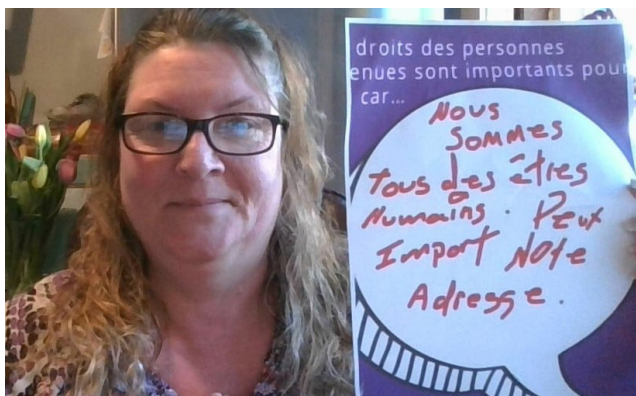
Elizabeth Fry Week 2021: Human Rights in Action – Public Campaign

As an organization, we have always known that human rights for criminalized and marginalized people are hard won. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, it has been made clear that these rights—even when won—can still be overlooked and minimized. Having rights enshrined in law is not enough. In 2021, we drew inspiration from the legacy of this organization's namesake, Elizabeth Fry, and her work in asserting the humanity of incarcerated people—in helping to center the 'human' in their 'human rights' through our awareness raising campaign.

Through a series of video interviews, we put a spotlight on the work that is happening across our network of 24 local Elizabeth Fry Societies and regional advocates to safeguard the humanity of people within systems and structures that are designed to be dehumanizing. We also used this moment to reiterate our numerous calls to act to protect the safety of incarcerated people during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Yoriko (regional coordinator for the Pacific) shares why she advocates for human rights.



Johanne Wendy Bariteau (regional coordinator for Ontario and Quebec) shares why she believes the rights of incarcerated people are important.



Brianna Bourassa (regional coordinator for Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut) shares her reflections on what it would mean to live in a world where everyone's human rights were upheld.

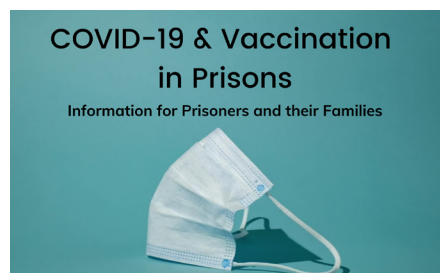
COVID-19 Vaccinations in Prison – Public Panel Discussion

On April 19th, 2021, CAEFS hosted a virtual panel in partnership with Dr. Idil Abdillahi and El Jones to address questions and concerns from incarcerated people and their loved ones regarding the COVID-19 vaccine in prison. This panel was developed as a response to the number of questions that CAEFS and others were receiving regarding the vaccine, and a noted lack of information about the vaccine for federally incarcerated people.

The panelists discuss the follow questions, and more:

- Why should people who are incarcerated trust CSC to give them the vaccine?
- What are health considerations/ concerns related to population health that people might consider?
- Might there be some spiritual and/or dietary considerations that should be considered?
- What are the potential side effects to health? Especially for people who are immunocompromised?
- What happens if someone refuses the vaccine?
- Why did some governments prioritize Indigenous people for vaccination?
- What is the link between experiences of trauma and hospitals / health “care”?

A version of this panel was distributed to the Correctional Service of Canada to be shared with federally incarcerated people.



◀ The accompanying graphic for “COVID-19 Vaccinations in Prisons” public discussion



MEMORIAL BURSARY FUND

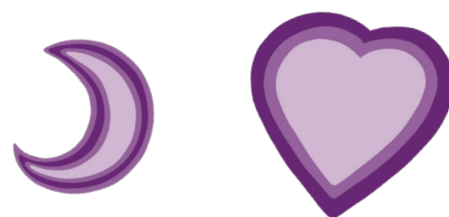
The Memorial Bursaries are an annual bursary series distributed by CAEFS that seeks to help criminalized women and gender-diverse people in reaching their educational and employment goals. Past bursary recipients have used bursaries to fund entrepreneurial projects, buy school supplies, or subsidize the cost of post-secondary courses, and more. This year, we were able to increase our bursaries from \$500 per recipient to \$750.

Our bursaries are funded through generous individual donations.

In 2021, CAEFS distributed 15 bursaries for a total of \$11,250.00.



▲ The accompanying graphic for our 2021 memorial bursary announcement



ADVOCACY

Legal Work

CAEFS undertakes legal challenges and interventions to forward and protect the rights of criminalized and / or incarcerated women and gender-diverse people. This work can include inquests, constitutional challenges, supreme court interventions and more. Below, we outline some of our legal work during the past fiscal year.

CHALLENGING DRY-CELLING

“Dry-celling” is a form of solitary confinement where someone suspected of carrying contraband is held under direct observation, with the lights at all time, and with no running water for an indefinite period of time. Lisa Adams, who had been held in a dry cell for 16 days while incarcerated at the Nova Institution, challenged the law that gave prison management the authority to hold her in a “dry cell” for an indefinite period of time using sections 7, 12, and 15 of the Charter. The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia worked closely with Ms. Adams, along with the BC Civil Liberties Association and CAEFS, to provide support and to bring public attention to the cruel and inhumane practice of dry-celling.

In November 2021, a Nova Scotia supreme court judge struck down the law that permits the use of dry celling, finding that it breaches section 15 of the Charter. Judge Keith gave the Federal Government 6 months to change the law to bring it in line with the Charter.

In April 2022, As part of the 2022 Federal Budget, the government proposed the introductions of amendments to the Corrections and Conditional Release Act (Act) that will prohibit the Correctional Service of Canada from

placing people in prison, who are suspected of concealing contraband in the vaginal cavity, in dry cells. A measure that, they say, will bring the Act into compliance with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. CAEFS continues to advocate for the elimination of dry-celling and all forms of solitary confinement.

CHALLENGING THE USE OF STRIP SEARCHING – ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

In 2017, CAEFS Atlantic regional advocates assisted a woman in submitting a public complaint to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission of the RCMP (CCRC) regarding the illegal strip search that she endured in 2013. The CCRC subsequently conducted a public interest investigation into her complaint and a final report was shared with CAEFS in September 2020, concluding that the strip search that she had endured was unreasonable and was contrary to the RCMP's national operational policy on strip searches. Upon receipt of the final report, CAEFS worked with Emma Halpern – a regional advocate with CAEFS and the executive director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia – who had helped to file the complaint, to set up a meeting with the RCMP Commissioner, Brenda Lucki. The aim of this meeting was to allow the woman to speak directly to the Commissioner about how the strip search had affected her and to seek concrete action from the RCMP to ensure that this treatment did not continue. Since that initial meeting, there has been an exchange of correspondence between CAEFS and the RCMP Commissioner as we continue to push for action to ensure that similar incidents do not occur.

SUPREME COURT INTERVENTION: R V. SHARMA

On Wednesday, March 23rd CAEFS intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) in R v. Sharma. In our submission, CAEFS argues that the persistent absence of substantive equality for Indigenous women who become involved with the criminal justice system should inform the Court's s. 7 of the Charter analysis without requiring any engagement with the framework that would otherwise govern a discrimination inquiry under s. 15 of the Charter. In plain terms, we are arguing that the court should consider the implications of systemic discrimination (usually looked at under s. 15) when considering the arguments under gross disproportionality under s. 7. CAEFS was represented by Emilie Taman (Champ and Associates) and was one of 20 interveners in the case.

Concurrently to our intervention at the Supreme Court of Canada in R v. Sharma in March 2022, CAEFS released a video interview with, Emilie Taman (Champ Law and Associates). Taman was CAEFS' counsel for our Supreme Court of Canada intervention in R v Sharma and was interviewed by our executive director. In it, they discuss what it means to intervene at the Supreme Court of Canada, what our argument was, and more.

You can read CAEFS' submission [here](#).



◀ Emilie Coyle (CAEFS' executive director) and Emilie Taman (CAEFS' counsel in R v. Sharma), prior to the start of the hearing.

PUBLIC INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF A WOMAN AT THE GRAND VALLEY INSTITUTION

CAEFS is working to support the inquest into the death of a woman at the Grand Valley Institution in 2016. This woman's death is further proof that that prisons are no place for individuals with mental health issues. As an organization with a substantial interest in the Inquest, CAEFS has been granted standing to take an active part in this open inquest proceedings and to call expert witnesses. For more information, please contact us.

PUBLIC INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF A WOMAN AT THE SOUTHWEST DETENTION CENTRE

CAEFS is supporting the work of the Council of Elizabeth Fry Societies of Ontario (CEFSO) on an inquest into the death of a woman at the Southwest Detention Centre, in Windsor ON. CEFSO has been granted standing, and CAEFS is collaborating with them.

HUMAN RIGHTS CASE: CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT FOR PEOPLE IN PRISONS DESIGNATED FOR WOMEN

In 2010 CAEFS filed a Human Rights Case on behalf of all federally sentenced women with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Information from our years of advocacy and monitoring conditions of confinement will be used as evidence in this case.

Submissions, Briefs, and Reports

June 2021: Submission to the Committee Against Torture in Advance of the Committee's Development of the List of Issues Prior to the Reporting for Canada's 8th Periodic Review

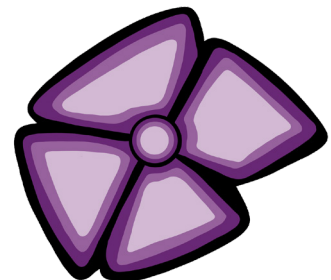
Canada ratified the United Nation (UN) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT) in 1987. The CAT is foundational to the creation of subsequent auxiliary prisoner/detainee human rights laws, such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (The Mandela Rules) and UN Rules for the Treatment of Female Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offender (The Bangkok Rules). The CAT is particularly important to CAEFS' work as it guarantees human rights protections which are not subject to state derogation. No exceptional state circumstance, such as war, natural disaster, or global pandemic, can be invoked as justification for torture.

This submission, included as part of Canada's eighth periodic report of its implementation of the CAT, will offer CAEFS' perspective on the ways in which Canada has failed to uphold its commitment to the CAT by sanctioning violence against those incarcerated in federal prisons designated for women. CAEFS makes recommendations within the existing framework of criminalization and punishment, while urging the UN to consider more transformative approaches to justice.

May 2021: Submission to the Human Rights Committee in Advance of the Committee's Development of the List of Issues Prior to the Reporting for Canada's 7th Periodic Review

CAEFS is concerned with Canada's insufficient implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This submission, included as part of Canada's seventh period report of its implementation of the ICCPR, offered CAEFS' perspective on the ways in which Canada has failed to uphold its commitment to the protection and preservation of the human rights standards guaranteed by the ICCPR.

CAEFS put forward our contention that no amount of reform within the existing system of criminalization and punishment will ever completely align with the human rights standards guaranteed by the ICCPR, and that more just and effective forms of accountability that do not continue to perpetuate harm against our community's most vulnerable members are possible. Because people in prison matter, and because their rights are entrenched, CAEFS concluded with recommendations within the existing framework of criminalization and punishment, while urging the United Nations (UN) to consider more transformative approaches to justice. CAEFS closes with recommendations.



April 2021: Policy Brief prepared for the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security: Sexual Violence and Coercion in Federal Prisons Designated for Women

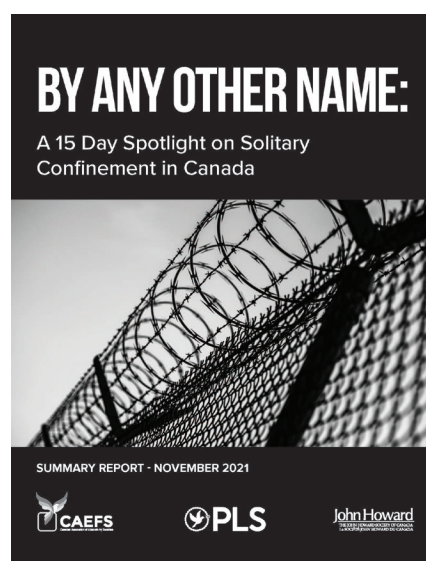
Building on the Office of the Correctional Investigators national investigation “A Culture of Silence: National Investigation into Sexual Coercion and Violence in Federal Corrections”, CAEFS put forward findings on the prevalence of sexual coercion and violence in Canadian federal prisons designated for women. Specifically, CAEFS affirmed the OCI’s findings that women; individuals who identify as, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and people with histories of trauma and mental illness are most frequently the target of sexual coercion and violence.

CAEFS also identified a critically under examined aspect of sexual violence and coercion in prisons: the violence perpetuated by Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) staff. Given the inherent power imbalances in a prison, these incidents of sexual coercion and violence are under reported. When they are reported, CSC does not systematically document them. As the OCI wrote, CSC’s response has indicated an “organizational indifference” and a lack of leadership. In addition to the illegal incidents of sexual violence and coercion, incarcerated people are often subjected to strip-searches. Strip searches—whether routine or otherwise—are experienced as violent and have adverse effects on incarcerated people’s wellbeing. CAEFS also included recommendations for action.

November 2021: By Any Other Name – A 15 Day Spotlight on Solitary Confinement in Canada

On Monday, November 16, 2020, a coalition of groups invested in justice for prisoners launched a 15-day spotlight on the ongoing practice of solitary confinement in Canada. This spotlight led up to the one-year anniversary of the supposed implementation of the Structured Intervention Units (SIUs) in federal Canadian prisons – an implementation that has received considerable public criticism over the failure of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to cooperate with the independent oversight committee, and a lack of meaningful change from the solitary confinement units they were intended to replace.

This report, released one year later, summarizes the panels from the Spotlight on Solitary campaign, most of which can be found on YouTube. These panels include some of Canada’s most respected and recognized advocates, scholars, lawyers, and politicians – and features the critical voices of individuals with lived experiences of incarceration and community groups.



◀ The cover image of “By Any Other Name – A 15 Day Spotlight on Solitary Confinement in Canada”, a report released by CAEFS in November 2021.

Ad Hoc Consultations, Joint Statements, and Presentations to Government

CAEFS is often asked to consult on key policy issues by external stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and federal government bodies. We are also invited to present testimony to government bodies on key policy issues related to our work. Below are ad hoc consultations, joint statements to which CAEFS was a signatory, and presentations to government that CAEFS participated in in the last fiscal year.

Consultations

- “Developing a Policy-Ready Public Health Indicator Tool-kit for Financial Strain” hosted by The Centre for Healthy Communities (University of Alberta) and the Centre for Healthy Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (University of New South Wales)
- “Setting the Stage & Mapping Climate Change and Urban/Community Safety” hosted by Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention
- “Climate Change and Community Safety” hosted by Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention
- “Virtual Roundtable on Structured Intervention Units (SIUS)” hosted by Correctional Service of Canada
- “Advisory Committee on Women in the Economy: Removing Barriers to Employment” hosted by Skills and Employment Branch, Government of Canada
- “Independent Criminal Case Review”, led by the Honourable Harry LaForme and the Honourable Juanita Westmoreland-Traoré.

Joint Statements

- May 2021: “Our Feminism is Trans Inclusive” – CAEFS was proud to join over 100 feminist and social justice organizations across Canada declaring our support for trans inclusion and trans rights.
- July 2021: “Coalition Pens Open Letter to CSC, Renews Calls to End Prolonged Solitary Confinement” - Following a consultation regarding Structured Intervention Units (“SIUs”), CAEFS joined the John Howard Society and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association in penning an open letter criticizing the narrow scope of the consultation and calling on the federal government to take immediate action to end the torture in Canada’s federal prisons.

Presentations to Government

- June 2021: Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on the Correctional Service of Canada’s response to COVID-19, sexual violence and coercion in general prisons designated for women, and Structured Intervention Units.
- April 2021: Presentation to the House of Commons Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Our remarks focused on the effect of COVID-19 on the prisons and lack of access to justice.

Recurring Consultations, Coalitions, and Committees

CAEFS is often invited to participate in ongoing consultations with stakeholders to work to address key issues related to our work. We also are a part of a number of coalitions and committees working to address systemic issues that intersect with our work.

Canadian Mental Health Association

Throughout this fiscal year, members of the CAEFS team collaborated with the Canadian Mental Health Association (contracted under a call for proposals from the Mental Health Commission of Canada) to establish an inventory of community supports for women leaving prison with mental health and/or addictions challenges.

CAEFS also sits on the CMHA's National Action Plan Committee for Mental Health and the Justice System, which convenes stakeholder from across Canada's justice and penal systems in a multi-year project to develop a federal framework for addressing persistent gap and harms at this intersection.

Fresh Start Coalition

CAEFS, along with over 85 organizations and individuals are advocating for a transition from the current onerous and time-consuming record suspension application process to a spent record regime. A spent regime would automatically seal a person's criminal record and allow them to move on with their lives. The coalition is engaged in lobbying government and bringing attention to this important and transformative change that would benefit thousands of people across the country. You can learn more about the coalition's work on their website.

Framework to Reduce Recidivism

On June 29, 2021, An Act to Establish a Federal Framework to Reduce Recidivism (the Act) received Royal Assent. The Minister of Public Safety was given one year to develop and table the Recidivism Framework (by June 2022). The Act called on the Minister of Public Safety to engage partners and stakeholders to develop and implement a federal framework "that ensures the needs of people who have been incarcerated are met and support their rehabilitation."

CAEFS and our membership were consulted on the framework and provided feedback that centred on understanding the various external factors that contribute to recidivism and ensuring that the resources that are put in place acknowledge the systemic ways that people become criminalized. As a member of the NAACJ, CAEFS supported the development of a paper entitled "Reducing Recidivism: Shifting the Paradigm to Invest in Community" that was sent to the Minister.

Currently the Framework does not have financial supports attached to it; however, this engagement has the potential to inform the decision-making processes related to policies and funding programs

Stimulus – Drug Policy and Practice in Canada

CAEFS is part of the national implementation and planning committee for a national conference on drug policy in Canada. This committee is comprised of organizations in Canada that are invested in the human rights of people who use drugs and approaches rooted in harm-reduction.

Regional Advocacy

Despite the ongoing challenges to access resulting from the Correctional Service of Canada’s response to the pandemic, CAEFS five regional advocacy teams continue to monitor the conditions of confinement in the six federal institutions designated for women and operated by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC):

REGIONAL ADVOCACY TEAM	RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING:
Atlantic	Nova Institution
Quebec	Joliet Institution, Institut Philippe-Pinel de Montréal
Ontario	Grand Valley Institution
Prairies	Edmonton Institution for Women
Pacific	Fraser Valley Institution, Regional Psychiatric Centre

Advocates speak with incarcerated people and document the legal, civic, and human rights issues that they experience. Our records demonstrate that the host of historically pressing issues that women and gender diverse people face in prison have been exacerbated by the CSC’s lock-down response to the pandemic.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our ability to conduct monthly advocacy visits, our work has continued largely through CAEFS Advocacy Phone Lines. Monthly meetings with senior management were maintained in teleconference format. After teleconference meetings, discussions have been documented through regional advocacy letters. The letters

remain a core part of CAEFS work, as they outline the concerns that were raised, the laws and policies that support these concerns, what the prison’s position on each issue is, and explicitly state CAEFS calls for remedies, responses, and further actions needed.

Each time a letter is completed, it is sent to the prison wardens, the Deputy Commissioner for Women’s Prisons at Correctional Services Canada, the Office of the Correctional Investigator, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Citizen’s Advisory Committees, as well as key Senators and additional stakeholders.

Through this format, advocacy letters provide real-time links between abuses occurring on the ground in Canadian prisons designated for women and change-makers who can work to address and redress the gross injustices that continue to define federal incarceration for women and gender diverse people.

The letters are also indexed and coded into CAEFS’ regional advocacy letter database, which enables us to track issues over time. This year, this work was completed by volunteer law students through Pro Bono Students Canada.

In March 2022, in-person advocacy visits resumed in select provinces. With access resuming, regional advocates are excited to be back in collaboration with their incarcerated counterparts: peer advocates. Established in 2015, CAEFS peer advocacy trains and support individuals in prison to provide on the ground advocacy, and to foster cultures of legal literacy inside the prisons. Many regions are presently focused on bolstering and re-building peer advocacy teams.

2021-2022: STATUS OF CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT IN PRISONS DESIGNATED FOR WOMEN

Summary

This year, individuals have reported to CAEFS that prison conditions have never been worse. CSC's pandemic response amounts to gross violation of the charter and human rights of every incarcerated system.

Individuals in prisons designated for women are being kept in environments that fail to provide the fundamental material requirements for personal safety, dignity, and security. As result of CSC's sustained "lock-down" approach to the pandemic, people have been kept within environments rampant with conflict, without meaningful access to their families and communities, and with very little positive activities to engage in.

Through these conditions, CSC has categorically failed in its mandate to provide care and custody. The service fails to facilitate an incarceration that upholds individual's legal and human rights. Compounding these issues, systemic racism and discrimination continue to pervade the institutions, adding layers of complexity to the harms being produced in the institutions outlined in this report.

Regional advocacy teams have worked hard to continue to provide support, predominantly through the telephone lines, offering advice in many instances, and direct intervention on people's behalf in many others, to redress and reduce their issues where possible, and to hold the institutional heads' to account. Advocacy teams worked through continued disruption and amidst challenging circumstances, often

being the first points of contact for people calling in states of distress. As result of their hard work, advocacy efforts resulted in myriad positive outcome for individuals. Examples include diversion from maximum security placements, support at parole hearings and support crafting re-entry plans, support for people who have come forward after being harmed by correctional staff, and much more. We thank the advocates for the tremendous work that they continue to do.

Snapshot

The following snapshot outlines the pressing issues that have been reported to CAEFS in the 2021-2022 fiscal year and documented in CAEFS advocacy letters.

Isolation: people are consistently reporting that they are being isolated, both from others within the prison and from their families and communities.

- For most of the year, in person visits were suspended, leaving people without physical access to their families, partners and children.
- Telephone rates continued to be unaffordable. People report that one phone per living unit is not enough to sustain meaningful family contact, especially without in-person visits.
- The cohort system that CSC implemented as a pandemic response left individuals isolated even within the prison, having sustained access only to a small number of individuals with little to no choice regarding who is within one's cohort.
- Increased mail holds and/or delays since the pandemic began.

Abuse and mistreatment from staff: women and gender diverse people frequently report experiencing abuse of various forms at the hands of the staff. Individuals are being threatened, harassed, and intimidated routinely by correctional officers, with reports of:

- Security staff pressuring individuals to not apply for conditional release and/or institutional transfers.
- Security staff acting in verbally and emotionally abusive manners.
- Security staff using their positions of power in harmful way, such as intentionally keeping doors to schools, spiritual, and leisure rooms locked without reason for doing so).
- The use of cell and unit searches as punishment, frequent “cell tossing”.
- Security staff covering their identification tags.

Needless barriers from basic needs: We continue to receive reports that the CSC fails to provide individuals with their most basic needs. Reports of issues of this nature are concentrated within the secure units, but are pervasive throughout the security classifications, and are focused on:

- Women and gender diverse people frequently being denied tampons, gender and culturally responsive prison clothing and hygiene items, and unit cleaning supplies.
- Individuals being subject to extreme temperatures: extreme cold in the winter and extreme hot in the summer.

Lack of meaningful employment, vocational training, and access to education: The few vocational and educational programs that were available prior to the pandemic continued to be unavailable in the 2021-2022 year. Institutions resumed limited access to secondary

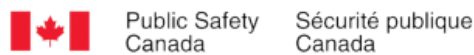
school and select programming, but largely, individuals reported being warehoused with little constructive to do.

- ETAS, UTAS, and work releases have begun to resume, however options are limited and very few individuals can access them.
- Several employment positions—from harm reduction workers to grievance coordinators—are not being utilized, despite the advocacy efforts of people and committees inside. The institution is not advertising or actively hiring for these positions, favoring room cleaner positions instead.
- The institutions continue to negate the need to prepare people with technological skills; several institutions have very few computers for the populations to access—as little as two for the whole institution. These computers are dated, many require floppy disks, and there are very few time slots people can access them.

Security classification increase for Indigenous queer and gender diverse people:

A concerning trend, this year CAEFS received high numbers of calls from Indigenous people, and Indigenous people who identify as queer and/or gender diverse, who have experienced involuntary transfers from western regions to the Atlantic region, where they are being subject to ostracization and increased security classification. Many of these individuals have been classified as maximum security shortly before their statutory release.

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



AN ARTIST STATEMENT FROM CHERYLANNE JAMES

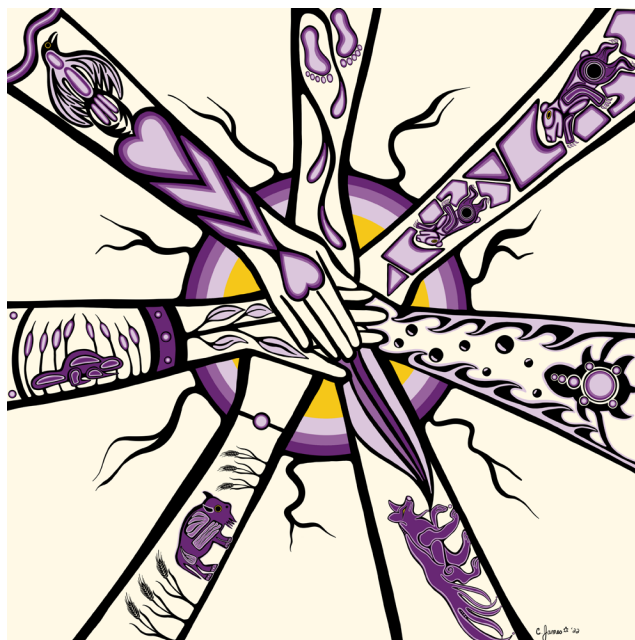
My name is Cherylanne James, I am Anishinaabe from my Martin Clan. My home community is Chippewas of Rama First Nation, and I live in Nogojiwanong (Peterborough, ON) and belong to the urban Indigenous community there. I am a teacher, learner, and a storyteller through my art. I have proudly created a few pieces for the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), as I feel passionate about the amazing work CAEFS does.

For this piece, I was asked to create an image around the concepts of community, connection, and love. After reflecting for a time on what this means in relation to the work that CAEFS does, love is foundational and represented in the advocacy and support of women and gender diverse peoples who experience oppression and criminalization. It is within these intimate spaces that connection to each other leads to the creation of community.

The concept of love does not act alone in creating a connected community. It is interconnected to other essential themes to be able to do this work. I thought about the Seven Grandfather Teachings, that bringing together the values of how to treat one another. While CAEFS is not an Indigenous agency, they support Indigenous peoples who experience oppression and barriers to justice. I wanted to

represent that in this piece, as these teachings of love, respect, humility, wisdom, courage, bravery, and truth are foundational for all humans to follow to live a good way and to create spaces of dignity.

Miigwech for taking the time to read this statement. I appreciate the work you all do.





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