

EDUCATION IN PRISONS

EDUCATION AND DIGITAL LITERACY AS REHABILITATION

79%

MALE CANADIAN INMATES
LACK A HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA

71%

FEMALE CANADIAN INMATES
LACK A HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA

Imprisoned Canadians face significant barriers to accessing education which limits their employment opportunities upon release

"For those who want to go further, beyond high school, while incarcerated, I think many Canadians would be shocked to learn that the prison system effectively prohibits them from going beyond high school."

- Professor Lisa Kerr

Inmates seeking educational services encounter:

- A narrow range of education options
- A lack of access to contemporary technology
- Information-depriving environments
- Long waiting lists
- Limited access to essential learning materials (i.e., writing utensils and library resources)

Internet use in prisons has been absolutely banned since 2003 which majorly curtailed access to post-secondary education

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Adult Basic Education

- Covers Grades 1-12
- Four program levels are offered corresponding to the education needs of the inmate

English or French as an additional language

Post-secondary pre-requisites

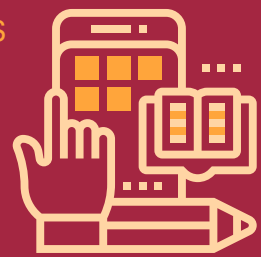
Adapted Adult Basic Education

- Focuses on basic literacy, social cognition, and problem-solving skills to help gain and maintain employment

Current programs have proven cost-effective and positively impact the employment outcomes of offenders. However, they fail to address the educational needs of inmates by refusing to incorporate digital resources.

Correctional Service of Canada's 2015 Recommendations

- Target high risk offenders and increase overall offender literacy levels
- Ensure that inmates have access to relevant and up-to-date reading materials and implement an electronic library catalogue
- Supplement educational materials with electronic resources to improve digital literacy



AS COURTS ARE HESITANT TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGITAL LITERACY, POLICIES ADDRESSING THE EDUCATION NEEDS OF INMATES MUST BE ENACTED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS BECAUSE IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN PRISONS REDUCES RECIDIVISM RATES AND CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED PUBLIC SAFETY

FURTHER ACTION

Donate reading materials by contacting:
BookDonations@csc-scc.gc.ca

Volunteer with or donate to:
Book Clubs for Inmates

Demand policy makers affirm The United Nations Human Rights Council's recognition that computer skills are essential to adapt to the present world by prioritizing digital literacy.

