



International Centre For
Criminal Law Reform and
Criminal Justice Policy

Corrections Communiqué

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Cooperative Efforts Continue

As part of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (the Centre) Implementing International Standards in Criminal Justice in China Programme, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, delegations of criminal justice professionals from China visited Vancouver, Canada in June and September 2007. During her visit, Ms. Rong Rong, Director, Chaoyang District Justice Bureau presented her paper *Promoting Community Corrections in China Resource Consolidation and System Development* at a June conference. The delegation also participated in both the International Society for Reform of Criminal Law Conference and the **Symposium on Canada China Cooperation in Promoting Criminal Justice Reform**.

In September 2007, a ten person delegation headed by Ms. Liao Chunying, Deputy Director, Chaoyang District Justice Bureau visited the International Centre to gain insight into the role that organizations such as the British Columbia Criminal Justice Association play in shaping the correctional system in Canada. The importance of the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures* and the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice* were emphasized throughout the meetings. Both of these documents can be located in Mandarin at the following United Nations website.

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/compendiumcompendium_2006_zh.pdf

The cooperative efforts of those who participated in the delegation visits continues to enhance the respect and support between correctional professionals in Canada and China. The shared commitment to the humane treatment of offenders, safer communities and to the exchange of ideas forming a solid foundation of future endeavors'.

- R.E Bob Brown, Director Corrections Programme



Ms. Rong Rong, Director, Beijing Chaoyang Justice Bureau and Mr. R.E. Bob Brown, Director, Corrections Programme, ICCLR June 25, 2007

Chaoyang Delegation Visits a Minimum and Medium Security Institution



Chaoyang Justice Bureau and Colleagues visit with the National Parole Board in Abbotsford, British Columbia

June 25, 2007

The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Justice Policy welcomed the Chaoyang delegation and provided them with the opportunity to explore two Canadian criminal justice agencies. I had the privilege of acting as an interpreter for the delegation from China when they visited the National Parole Board (Pacific Region) and two federal correctional facilities - Mission Institution (medium-security) and Ferndale Institution (minimum-security).

The Chinese officials were hosted by Robert E. Brown, Director of Corrections Program, International Centre for Criminal Law Reform & Criminal Justice Policy and by the Canadian International Development Agency

The Chinese delegation, which consisted of five members from the Chaoyang Justice Bureau, was headed by Gong Jing Shun, Division Director, Division of Prison Administration, Beijing Prison Bureau.

Continued on page 5...

The Centre Welcomes a Volunteer from the Correctional Service of Canada

The International Centre is pleased to welcome Mr. Edmund Wu as a volunteer to the Communiqué's Editorial and Production Committee. Mr. Wu served with the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department for 17 years in various aspects of correctional administration and management, including custodial operations, security inspections and investigations, recruitment, staff training and manpower planning. Mr. Wu joined the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) as a Community Parole Officer in 2001. He also worked in the field of employment counseling for three years prior to becoming a member of CSC.

Mr. Wu is currently on assignment with COR-CAN as an Employment Skills Program Officer. He acts as a trainer and facilitator for offenders under the National Employment Skills Programme.

Mr. Wu attained his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 1977 and a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 1979, both from California State University, Long Beach. Apart from English, he is also fluent in the Mandarin, Cantonese, and Chiu Chow dialects.



Mr. Edmund Wu, CSC Employment Skills Program Officer and also ICCLR Volunteer



Letter from the John Howard Society to the International Centre

August 1, 2007

On behalf of the John Howard Society of the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, I would like to thank the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Policy and the China Prison Society for allowing us to participate in the sharing of international correctional practices. The opportunity to share our Agency's community experience and learn practices from highly skilled representatives of the China Prison Society will be a career highlight that I will cherish.

The John Howard Society operates at a local, provincial and national level within Canada. We provide services to any person in need of support at all levels of the justice system, including those incarcerated or within the community. We believe that every person has intrinsic worth, the potential to be accountable and responsible for their actions and has the right to be informed about and involved in the criminal justice system. Justice is best served through measures that repair harm and restore peaceful relations in society. We are governed by volunteer members of communities who are interested in promoting effective and humane criminal justice through reform, advocacy, direct service and public education in order to promote a safe and peaceful community.

Though our visit was brief, our guests appreciated the tour our guests through a community residential facility/halfway house on contract with the Correctional Service of Canada and the Miller Block, an apartment building providing supportive transitional housing, both located in Vancouver.

Our Agency has evolved into a social justice organization assisting persons with developmental disabilities, mental health disorders and in need of assistance. Our clients are members of the community and have a tendency to be categorized by other service providers as at times presenting unique challenges. Our programs support the community and specifically address persons in need of assistance, those at risk of victimization, the homeless and those involved in the criminal justice system. Our programs provide wrap-around services and community based care through holistic models of support that promote restorative values of accountability and responsibility. It was truly my pleasure to have had the opportunity to participate in this international sharing of correctional experience and practices!

- Tim Veresh, Executive Director, The John Howard Society



Beijing Community Corrections Delegation visits the Vancouver John Howard Society on June 24, 2007

National Parole Board Honored to Host Chinese Delegation

The National Parole Board, Pacific Region was honored June 25, 2007 to receive a delegation of officials from the China Prison Society, the Beijing Normal University, the China National Commercial Foreign Trade Corporation, the Correctional Service of Canada and the International Center for Criminal Law Reform. The delegation traveled to the Parole Board office in Abbotsford, a small city in the Fraser Valley, approximately one hour from Vancouver.

As the Regional Vice-Chair for the Pacific Region, I have traveled three times to China, on behalf of the Board, as part of the Corrections Project and appreciated the opportunity to make a presentation on the mandate, operational structure and decision-making framework for the parole system in Canada.

The National Parole Board of Canada, a component of the criminal justice system, is an independent administrative agency that has the mandate to make decisions on the timing and conditions under which offenders serving custodial sentences may serve a portion of their sentence in the community under supervision. The Board has the exclusive authority for decisions for offenders serving sentences of two years or more, and authority for offenders serving sentences of less than two years in all parts of Canada except Ontario and Quebec which have their own parole boards. The Pacific Region, one of five regional offices, makes conditional release decisions for offenders incarcerated in British Columbia and the Yukon Territories.

The Board also makes decisions on pardons in accordance with legal criteria for persons who have completed their sentences and established themselves in the community as law-abiding citizens. Furthermore, the Board also reviews and makes recommendations to the Governor-General-In-Council for clemency applications. These latter two aspects of the Board's mandate are carried out in our national office in Ottawa.

The conditional release system contributes to public safety through decisions on if, when and how offenders are supervised and supported in the community prior to the end of a prison sentence. The

Board, supported by information provided by the Correctional Service of Canada, reviews offenders at various points during a custodial sentence to determine if a conditional release will facilitate reintegration to the community and determine if the offender's risk is manageable on parole, and if so, under what conditions. Under Canadian law all offenders are eligible to be reviewed for parole. Those offenders serving a determinate sentence will automatically serve the final third of their sentence under community supervision unless the Board detains them.

Each offender is interviewed at the start of a sentence by correctional staff and information is gathered on the person's social, economic and criminal history. A profile is developed that identifies the factors contributing to criminal behaviour. This assessment determines the need for change in seven areas - associates, substance abuse, employment, personal/emotional orientation, attitude, community functioning and family/marital. A correctional plan is then prepared for each offender including programs and activities for the offender to complete, both in the institution and the community, in order to reduce their risk for recidivism.

The Board considers the criminal history, the static and dynamic factors which are seen as contributing to criminal behaviour, any progress made to address those factors through the correctional plan and the adequacy of the proposed release plan to manage the risk the person presents. Information available to the Board includes police reports, judge's comments, pre-sentence reports, psychological and psychiatric assessments, victim impact statements, a recommendation from Corrections on risk levels and a release plan.

During our meeting, the delegation raised many good questions on how the work of Board was carried out and the operational support needed to ensure Board members were able to complete their work.

Ms. Rong Rong, Director, Chao Yang District Justice Bureau, Beijing, noting



Ms. Speck, Regional Vice Chair, National Parole Board (far right) attending a meeting with the China Prison Society in Beijing, October 2006

Center Community Corrections Pilot, was very interested to understand the criteria used to determine risk. It was explained that the Board has a detailed policy manual that outlines different legal tests and criteria for each type of release decision, as well as there is a strong commitment to continuous training for board members that covers current research related to criminogenic factors, law, policy and interviewing techniques. Success rates for day parole (84.5%) and full parole (73%) were discussed, and recent statistics note that most offenders returned to custody do so for breaching a condition of release (12-19%), followed by re-offending (3-7%) and a small number for re-offending with violence (less than 1%).

Mr. Gong Jing Shun, the delegation head representing the China Prison Society, expressed the appreciation of the Society and delegation for the information on the parole system, noting that the work of the National Parole Board requires a high level of skill and sound judgment akin to the judiciary. A wall hanging from the Sunshine Center was given by the delegation to commemorate the visit. Gifts symbolizing the partnership between Canada and China were exchanged over lunch, emphasizing the ongoing collaborative work to advance public safety being undertaken in both our countries.

- Kelly Ann Speck, Regional Vice Chair,
National Parole Board

Association's President Meets with Chinese Community Corrections

On September 11, 2007, it was my pleasure to meet with representatives from Chaoyang District of Beijing to discuss the role of the British Columbia Criminal Justice Association (BCCJA).

BCCJA is a provincial affiliate of the Canadian Criminal Justice Association (CCJA), which has its organizational roots in Montreal since 1892. It is a completely voluntary association of persons interested in pursuing the Mission of BCCJA: "BCCJA contributes to the community by educating, informing and promoting debate on criminal justice issues."

The membership includes representation from every sector of the criminal justice system, from the emerging victim support organizations, from the non-profit sector and from the general citizenship of Canada. It is important to note that CCJA and its provincial affiliates are the only fully inclusive organization of its kind in Canada.

CCJA and BCCJA are fully independent non-profit organizations. There are four main methods that we use to achieve our objectives:

1. Sponsorship of public forums where experts present a balanced, intelligent, and respectful discussion of timely and sensitive issues.

2. Initiatives with local municipal ties to increase local understanding of how the criminal justice system works.

3. Sponsorship of events which nurture inter-agency cooperation and communication

4. Provision of independent, research based response to new legal or policy initiatives proposed by government.

The importance of an independent, deeply experienced, concerned and professional organization that can bridge the traditional gaps that exist in criminal justice systems cannot be overstated. More information can be obtained at our web sites, which are www.bccja.com (BCCJA) and www.ccja-acjp.ca (CCJA).

As President of BCCJA, I want to express appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the representatives of Chaoyang District, and to wish them the best of fortune in the exciting development of their new community correctional centre.

- Jeff Christian, President, British Columbia Criminal Justice Association



Chaoyang District Justice Bureau visits the International Centre located at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on September 11, 2007

The Procuratorate Daily Visits the International Centre in Vancouver, British Columbia



The International Centre hosted two visiting journalists from China's *Procuratorial Daily* on November 13, 2007 as part of the Canada-China Procuratorate Reform Cooperation Programme (CCPRCP). The objectives of their visit were to: increase their understanding of Canada's legal and prosecutorial systems; research comparative legal articles; strengthen relationships by increasing their understanding of the Canadian Criminal Justice system and to ultimately broaden public knowledge of criminal law reform efforts in both Canada and China.

Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, CCPRCP provides Canadian expertise to support the Supreme Peoples Procuratorate (SPP) in implementing their reform agenda. Legal professionals in both China and Canada are benefiting from the programme and learning about the functions of each others' criminal justice systems.

The CCPRCP is currently in its fourth successful year. The programme has benefited from the participation and contributions of academics, lawyers, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement representatives. Both the Chinese and Canadian partners are proposing to extend the program into a second phase. Articles resulting from this visit will be available on both the International Centre's and the *Prosecutorial Daily's* websites in 2008.

Chaoyang Delegation visits...continued

Continued from page 1... The group was in Canada to attend the Symposium on Canada-China Cooperation in Criminal Justice Reform held in Vancouver.

Three other individuals from China, including two law professors who were also attending the Symposium, joined in the institutional visits.

The delegation was met at Mission Institution by Trudy Barrett, Assistant Warden (Management Services), and Glen Wilson, Coordinator of Correctional Programs.

Among the routine security measures required for entering the institution, members of the delegation found the hand stamp given at the Principal Entrance particularly interesting and innovative. People not wearing uniforms when entering and leaving the institution must show the hand stamp under an ultra-violet light to a staff member in the Central Control Room.

Mr. Wilson guided the delegation for the institutional tour. Despite a lockdown of the institution that day, the delegation visited various areas of the facility including the school, gymnasium, hobby/craft shop, and **CORCAN** production plant.

The delegation showed considerable interest in the educational upgrading available to the inmates and appreciated that academic certification for inmates who have successfully completed an educational program is awarded by the Ministry of Education of British Columbia.

Another highlight during the visit to the **CORCAN** production plant was an introduction to the "Bike for Tykes Program". The institution seeks donations from the community of bicycles for young children. Long term inmates who are unable to engage in full-time employment due to health issues or physical limitations voluntarily participate in the program.

They reconstruct and refinished the used bicycles which are then donated to needy children through charitable and/or religious organizations. On occasion prisoners engaged in this program sometimes donate money from their own pockets to buy spare parts and tires. This program not only enables the offenders to perform a meaningful community service, but also provides them with employment skills training.

The visit to Mission Institution concluded with a meeting with Acting Warden Bill Thompson, who explained the formulation and implementation of Correctional Plans for offenders. The delegation also learned about the unique roles played by the different stakeholders in this process and how the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) makes recommendations about offenders' potential for successful conditional release to the National Parole Board.

At Ferndale Institution, which is adjacent to Mission Institution, the delegation observed first-hand the differences between medium and minimum security facilities. The Chinese officials noted that minimum-security Ferndale has no perimeter fences, bungalow-type of housing units, and the open movement of staff and offenders around the institution.

The delegation met with Ferndale Institution's Acting Deputy Warden, Corinne Justason, Assistant Warden (Management Services) Arlene Thygesen, and Coordinator of Correctional Programs, Janet Rubb.

Members of the delegation were impressed that even inmates serving long-term sentences could be transferred to serve their sentences from a maximum-security institution to a medium-security institution and eventually to a minimum-security institution as a gradual transition for their social re-integration into the open community.

In addition, Ferndale Institution adopts a community-service approach to reintegrating offenders back to the society by participating in various community projects in partnership with outside organizations.

For example, the institution maintains a farm which grows vegetables for the local food bank as well as various homeless shelters. Also, inmates perform gardening, cleaning up, painting, and maintenance for community organizations such as, the Chamber of Commerce, churches, and charitable groups.

The visit to one of the housing units was a new experience for the delegation in that they learned about how six inmates, each having his own room, come to live harmoniously in a house with a shared kitchen, bathrooms and living room.

During the institutional tour, the delegation noticed the large number of sand bags outside the **CORCAN** shops. Ms. Rubb conveyed that the institution had taken part in a community project, requested by the District of Mission, whereby inmates had filled sand bags to prepare for the potential flood risk.

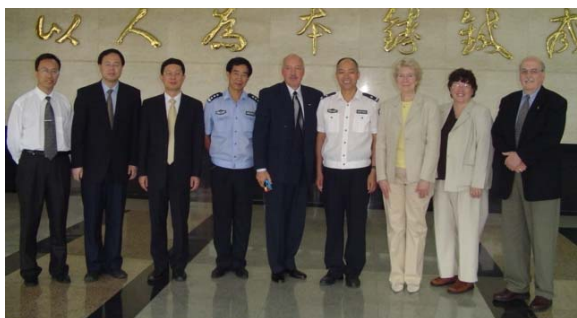
Throughout the visits to the Mission and Ferndale Institutions, Mr. Gong Jing Shun, the head of the delegation, noted the advanced technology adopted in the institutions and was impressed by the principles and practices implemented by the Correctional Service of Canada for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders.

The delegation's visit was certainly a success. The exchange of information regarding both the Canadian and Chinese correctional systems provided much valuable insight for furthering the systems in both countries. Although the two nations have different systems of operation and approaches, the philosophy and concept of corrections remain basically the same, particularly in reference to the eventual social re-integration of offenders back into the community.

- Mr. Edmund Wu, CSC Employment Skills Program Officer and also ICCLR Volunteer

New Publications

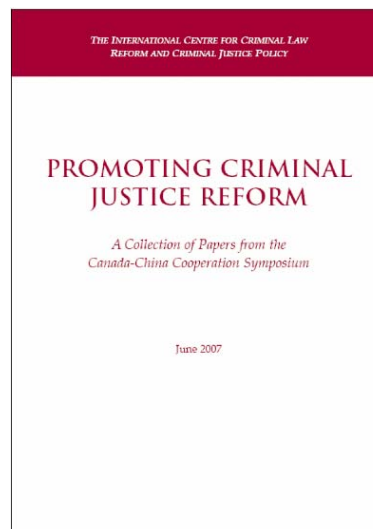
The Implementation of International Standards in Criminal Justice China Project (IISCJCP) led by Vincent Yang, with funding from the Canadian International Development Agency, and in cooperation with the China Prison Society published two texts: *An Overview of Community Corrections in Canada and China*; and *Risk Assessment & Risk Management: A Canadian Criminal Justice Perspective*. The publications will soon be available on the International Centre's website. <http://www.icclr.law.ubc.ca/>



Dr. Vincent Yang (ICCLR—third from left) and former Police Chief Constable Andersen (middle) during his participation in a June 2006 delegation to Guangzhou and Beijing. This photo was taken at Peyang Prison, Guangzhou and the delegation continued the Centre's cooperative relationship with the China Prison Society. In July 2007 Mr. Andersen was appointed as a parole board member for the National Parole Board.

Now Available:

***Promoting Criminal Justice Reform:
A Collection of Papers from the Canada-China
Cooperation Symposium, June 2007***



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The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) /
Le Centre international pour la réforme du droit criminel et la politique en matière de justice pénale (CIRDC)
1822 East Mall, Vancouver, B.C. / C.-B.
V6T 1Z1 CANADA
Tel / Tél: 1 (604)-822-9875
Fax / Téléc: 1 (604)-822-9317
Email / Courriel: icclr@law.ubc.ca
<http://www.icclr.law.ubc.ca>

Editorial and Production Committee

- R.E Brown, ICCLR
- Edmund Wu, CSC
- Vincent Yang, ICCLR
- Yuli Yang, ICCLR
- Brad Lauzon, ICCLR

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