

## **Recommendations from the Report of The Adult Corrections Capacity Review Committee**

- First, the Dauphin Correctional Centre is well beyond its structural usefulness, and needs to be replaced.
- Second, the situation of those awaiting trial in the North especially in Thompson needs to be addressed.
- Third, a reduction in the use of remand custody should free up space for sentenced offenders given the possibility of an increased provincial custody population with the reduction in conditional sentences predicted as a result of Bill C-10. With proper management in the community of more of those awaiting trial, new beds should not be necessary if the number of sentenced offenders in custody increases.
- Fourth, we are not convinced that the approach of locking up on remand a large majority of those charged with offences is the best one to take. We are however convinced that it is the most expensive one. It is the Committee's firm view that no expansion of prison beds for remand offenders should be undertaken unless and until all alternatives have been explored, including appropriate cost analysis. These alternatives include community risk management, bail support and supervision and other similar programs along with methods for greater efficiency in the court process.
- Fifth, we recommend that Manitoba Justice re-examine the recommendations from the original AJI and the subsequent AJI Implementation Commission to see what may be done to assist in reducing the number of Aboriginal offenders in Manitoba Correctional Centres.
- Sixth, we cannot expect prisons to solve the problem of why there are more female and Aboriginal female offenders, coming into the system. This requires a broader approach to the issues that are bringing increasing numbers of women, in particular Aboriginal women, into conflict with the law and into custody.
- Seventh, it is the view of the Committee that the best strategy for dealing with gangs is to work to reduce the reasons for their existence in the first place. This would include addressing the factors of economic and social marginalization while providing opportunities for developing a sense of belonging to the wider society through community development, education and job training. These are complex issues and those which imprisonment will not resolve nor is it correct in any sense to expect it would.
- Eighth, there is a need for other government departments and agencies that deal with our mentally ill offenders such as Manitoba Health, Manitoba Family Services and Housing, to work with Manitoba Justice and the Canadian Mental Health Association/Manitoba branch to develop an integrated approach to community based service delivery for mentally ill offenders.