

In Canada the parole system was first adopted for penitentiaries in 1899 and was later extended to include gaols and reformatories. In this the Canadian system differs from every other parole system in the world. The parole system was legalized under the Ticket-of-Leave Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 107).

It is the duty of the Minister of Justice to advise the Governor General on all matters connected with or affecting the administration of the Ticket-of-Leave Act. By an order in writing, under the hand and seal of the Secretary of State, the Governor General may grant to any prisoner under sentence of imprisonment in a penitentiary, gaol or other public prison or reformatory Ticket-of-Leave to be at large in Canada or any specified part thereof during such portion of his or her term of imprisonment and upon such conditions in all respects as the Governor General may see fit.

The working of the Ticket-of-Leave Act in Canada is in the following manner. Any convict serving a prison term, or any person on behalf of a prisoner, may make application through the Minister of Justice for a Ticket-of-Leave. Each application, whether received from the most humble petitioner or from a person of high standing in the State or the community, receives the same very careful attention. Reports and opinions are requested from the trial Judge, the police who handled the case and the warden of the prison where the prisoner is incarcerated. The past environment and the previous criminal record, if any, of the prisoner are studied. All the circumstances in each case are carefully considered by well qualified investigators in the Remission Service Branch of the Department of Justice. If the consensus of opinion is that the prisoner has profited by the time spent in prison and it is felt that an exercise of clemency will result in the prisoner becoming rehabilitated and again a useful member of society, and if honest, gainful employment and proper supervision are assured, then the Solicitor General recommends to His Excellency the Governor General that the subject be released to serve the remainder of his sentence under the restraint of a Ticket-of-Leave. The Governor General approves by placing his official signature thereon. The offender is then issued with a Ticket-of-Leave licence under the hand and seal of the Secretary of State and is released from prison to serve the remaining portion of his sentence at large, subject to the conditions and provisos laid down in his licence.

The Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has been designated by the Ticket-of-Leave Act to enforce the conditions under which each Ticket-of-Leave subject is liberated. This he does through the Ticket-of-Leave Section, Identification Branch, located at Ottawa.

Every holder of a Ticket-of-Leave licence, upon release, is required to notify the place of his residence to the Chief Officer of Police or Sheriff of the city, town or district in which he resides and, whenever he is about to leave a city, town, county or district he is obliged to notify such intention to the said Police Officer or Sheriff of that place stating the place to which he is going and, if possible, his intended address. Upon arrival at his new destination he is required to notify the local Police Officer or Sheriff. Further, each male Ticket-of-Leave subject