

opportunities are provided and inmates attend classes on either a full-time or part-time basis. Other students advance their education by correspondence courses offered at the elementary, secondary or university level. In 1971-72, approximately 3,500 inmates participated in adult education and vocational training programs offered by the Penitentiary Service, often with a view to acquiring a trade or profession. Expanded use was made of day parole and temporary absence in order to enable students to attend community education facilities. Fifty inmate-students were attending university, high school or community colleges at year-end. Religious programs are provided for all inmates and from 20% to 50% of them participate in worship services. Most chapels run multi-purpose chapel programs during the week where, besides religious instruction, other activities related to religious services are carried out. There is active inmate involvement in this section of the program which also includes suitable community participation.

Plans have been finalized to introduce interdisciplinary teams to be responsible for groups of inmates on a living unit basis in additional institutions besides the five originally selected as pilot institutions. The Living Unit Concept is an attempt to personalize the contacts between staff and inmates, to activate interpersonal relationships so that inmates, many of whom have regarded authority – whether inside or outside institutions – as antagonistic, can learn how to relate to it. This concept breaks down the inmate population into smaller groups with assigned staff, and facilitates the development of interpersonal relationships. The living unit training program will be conducted on a continuing basis as additional institutions are designated as “Living Unit Institutions”. The training program for living unit officers is scheduled to keep up with the demand in order that training will occur immediately following the competitive and/or selection process. The program cannot function properly without establishing simultaneously adequate and indispensable security teams. The principles of the living unit cannot be implemented successfully without clearly dividing responsibilities between Security and Living Unit Officers. Therefore, each institution will have its own security force. The separation into two groups of correctional officers will help in providing better specialized training, more frequent and effective staff meetings and over-all improved security control.

Temporary absences continue to increase and during the 1971-72 fiscal year exceeded 35,000. Such leaves are granted for periods of up to three days by the institutional staff and up to 15 days by the Commissioner for humanitarian, rehabilitative and medical reasons. The failure rate of this program was a fraction of one percent.

A sound and healthy program of evening and weekend activities has been expanded over the past year. Eighteen citizen participation committees, comprising 150 citizens, operate in institutions. More than 1,500 citizen volunteers are involved in inmates' programs both institutional and community oriented. A number of those involved are ex-inmates who are responsible for organizing their own groups in consultation with institutional authorities. The programs include Alcoholics Anonymous, drama, singing, music instruction, guitar groups, public speaking lectures, films, sports and recreation as well as a diversified and varied assortment of discussion groups run by private agencies, professional, voluntary citizens and community groups.

An inmate in need of professional treatment or counselling receives such services from staff specialists serving an inmate population of about 7,800. There are 20 full-time physicians and 5 on contractual arrangements or part-time; 19 full-time dentists and 3 part-time; 10 psychiatrists on permanent strength, 15 on contract or part-time; 28 full-time psychologists, 10 part-time; and 125 classification officers and social workers.

3.9.3 The national parole system

Parole is a means by which an inmate in any correctional institution in Canada, if he gives definite indication of his intention to reform, can be released to finish his sentence in the community. The purpose of parole is the protection of society through the rehabilitation of the inmate. The true purpose of corrections should be the reformation of the offender and not merely vengeance or retribution. Nevertheless, the National Parole Board is as much concerned with the protection of society as with the reformation of the offender and supervision is as much a part of the parole system as is guidance. The Board selects those inmates who show sincere intention to reform and assists them in doing so by granting parole.