

In 1975 the board granted 2,552 full paroles. This number together with those already on parole meant that there were 6,457 inmates at liberty in Canada for part or all of the year. Similarly, with the granting of 2,106 day paroles there were 2,874 inmates on day parole during the year, and with 2,439 inmates released on mandatory supervision there were 4,048 offenders at liberty for part or all of the year. During the same year there were 281 revocations of full parole and 341 of mandatory supervision. Some 2,204 day paroles were either terminated or completed during the same period. In 1975 there were 483 forfeitures of full paroles, 62 of day paroles, and 642 of mandatory supervision releases.

Significant changes to the board's operations were proposed under the Peace and Security legislation introduced in Parliament in 1976. Part of the proposals, contained in Bill C-84, became law July 26, 1976, affecting the eligibility of inmates sentenced to life for murder, on or after that date. Some of the other changes proposed in Bill C-83 would mean the expansion of the board from 19 to 26 members to permit a more extensive review of cases, the transfer of responsibility for temporary absences without escort from penitentiaries to the board, the participation by community representatives in the parole decision process for those convicted of murder or serving indeterminate sentences, and the introduction of more procedural safeguards for parole applicants. Additionally, the National Parole Service would join with the Canadian Penitentiary Service to form a federal corrections agency.

Through the Parole Act the National Parole Board is involved in the pardon granting process under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy when asked to do so by the Solicitor General of Canada. This concerns free pardons, ordinary pardons, and remissions of fines, forfeitures or penalties. Under the Criminal Records Act (RSC 1970, c.12 1st Supp.) the board also has specific responsibility for investigations and recommendations concerning pardons of people who were convicted and subsequently rehabilitated. Under that act a pardon may be granted two years after the end of a sentence for a summary offence or five years after a sentence for an indictable offence.

### *Sources*

- 2.1 - 2.6 Advisory and Research Services, Department of Justice.
- 2.7 Judicial Division, Institutional and Public Finance Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Ontario Provincial Police; Quebec Police Force.
- 2.8 - 2.9.1 Judicial Division, Institutional and Public Finance Statistics Branch, Statistics Canada.
- 2.9.2 Canadian Penitentiary Service.
- 2.9.3 National Parole Board.