

years before their full parole eligibility date. Day parole normally leads to release on full parole.

Full parole is a full-time release that lasts to the end of the sentence, including remission periods. Inmates who are not serving a life or indeterminate term become eligible for consideration after serving one-third of the sentence or after seven years, whichever comes first. The eligibility date is set by the Parole Act regulations and the criminal code.

The parole system provides a means of reintegrating an offender into the community. The board is as concerned with the protection of society as with the regeneration of the offender and, therefore, supervision is as much a part of the parole system as are assistance and guidance. All parolees and those not paroled but released under mandatory supervision because of remission of sentence are subject to conditions that, if violated, may result in a return to prison. Remission, time off the sentence for good behaviour, may amount to one-third of the sentence.

Since October 15, 1977 the provinces may appoint parole boards to deal with inmates in accordance with the Parole Act and its regulations, except those inmates serving life imprisonment for murder or detention for an indeterminate period. If this is not done, the National Parole Board continues to assume the responsibility for inmates in provincial prisons under federal law. British Columbia and Ontario have had their own parole boards for some years. In these provinces an inmate may be serving a definite or fixed term plus an indeterminate term. The National Parole Board may grant parole during the definite term and the provincial board during the indeterminate term.

Anyone serving a sentence of preventive detention as an habitual criminal or dangerous sexual offender has his case reviewed at least once a year under the criminal code to see if he should be granted parole. This type of offender is classified as a dangerous offender and is sentenced to a period of detention for an indeterminate period. He becomes eligible for parole three years after being taken into custody and thereafter the case is reviewed every two years. The board has found that few such inmates are ready for release before eight to 10 years have been served. An offender sentenced to life for a crime other than murder becomes eligible for parole after serving seven years.

Inmates sentenced to life for murder before July 26, 1976 may become eligible after a minimum of 10 years. For those sentenced to life terms after January 1974, the eligibility date may follow the jury's recommendation but the judge's pronouncement of the earliest possible date for eligibility is ultimately binding. This may be set at any time between 10 and 20 years. Inmates sentenced to life imprisonment on or after July 26, 1976 for first degree murder are not eligible for parole consideration before they have served 25 years. First degree murder covers all planned and deliberate murders; contracted murders; murder of police officers, prison employees, or others authorized to work in a prison; and murder while committing or attempting to commit rape, indecent assault on a male or female, kidnapping and forcible confinement, or hijacking. Anyone who commits a second murder, no matter of what nature, is considered to have committed a first degree murder.

Any other murder is second degree murder and the mandatory period to be served before parole eligibility is between 10 and 25 years, as indicated by the sentencing judge after the view of the convicting jury has been sought. A person convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to serve more than the minimum 10 years, before becoming eligible for parole, may appeal this additional period of ineligibility to a court of appeal.

Anyone convicted of first degree murder who has served 15 years of the 25-year mandatory period before parole eligibility or anyone convicted of second degree murder, whose mandatory term exceeds 15 years and who has served 15 years of the sentence, may apply for a judicial review by a superior court judge and a jury to either reduce the remaining period of ineligibility or to be declared immediately eligible for parole.

The board is also involved in another type of release, mandatory supervision. Anyone who is not paroled and is released from a federal institution more than 60 days before the end of his sentence, because of remission of the sentence, is subject to supervision for the full period of that remission. The release is made by law, not by a