

0.085 Cubic Metres

'Capitalism requires inequality, and racism enshrines it.'

Ruthie Wilson Gilmore

On the land now called North America, carceral systems emerged as part of colonization. The enslavement of Black and Indigenous people was intrinsic within this logic. While the scale of the prison systems in Canada and the USA is different, they originate from the same logic of racial capitalism. The intent of the prison space is not justice and rehabilitation, but control of populations in the name of capital, labour, and resources.

Large-scale stone and brick panoptical-style institutions were opened in Canada and the USA in 1835 (Kingston Penitentiary, Kingston, Ontario) and 1829 (Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). Before this, records show people detained in smaller Gaols as of the early 1700s in Montreal, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec City, Maine, and Philadelphia. Individuals were kept for shorter periods awaiting punishments including hanging, banishment, branding, flogging, and exposure. The shift from punishment to sentencing indicates a move from public to private, and with this emerges an increasingly opaque system where people are separated from their communities.

Today, 2.12 million people are incarcerated in the USA and 41,000 in Canada. Black, Indigenous, people of colour, poor people, queer, trans, and disabled people make up the majority of those inside.

In so-called Canada, people held within the federal system are currently permitted to store 0.085 cubic meters of property, in addition to the contents of their cell.

The bin in the storage space is 0.085 cubic meters.

On the reverse of this sheet of paper is a list by Correctional Service Canada of all approved items for a Women's minimum-level institution.

The total value cannot exceed \$1500.

- Bracelet, small loops or studs, wedding band, neck chain (6 mm. maximum and without heavy pendants), low relief decorative ring
- Stringed instrument, wind instrument or keyboard (maximum of 1 metre in length and no amps) and instrument accessories (stringed and wind instruments at the Institutional Head's discretion in maximum security)
- 1 - Clock radio/alarm clock
- 1 - Desk fan (plastic only)
- 1 - Power bar (maximum four (4) outlets)
- 1 - Reading lamp (non-halogen, 60 W maximum, CSA approved, no goose necked or weighted base)
- 2 - Light bulbs
- 1 - Typewriter (electric/manual)
- 2 - Tupperware type containers (maximum 1 litre (2 X 500 ml), cooking)
- 1 - Footlocker (in accordance with CD 345, or more as permitted by institution)
- 1 - Scissors (blunt ends only and maximum 6" long depending on security level)
- 1 - Mug (maximum 16 ounces and non-ceramic)
- 7 - Photo albums with pictures
- 1 - Stapler (non-electric)
- Cassette tape holder and/or compact disc holder (maximum capacity of 40)
- Assorted games, puzzles and board games
- Assorted books (in accordance with CD 345)
- 8 - Batteries (rechargeable and charger)
- 1 - Combination lock (approved CSC type)
- 20 - Clothes hangers (plastic only)
- 1 - Water bottle (maximum 16 ounces)
- 1 - Hand held calculator with no communication capability
- 1 - Geometry set
- 1 - Wallet
- 2 - Picture frames (no glass) for tack board or desk top
- Photographs (no Polaroid)
- 1 - Floor mat/praying mat (maximum size of 52" x 34" or as provided by the local community faith leader and in accordance with CD 345). The mat is not to be suspended on walls or windows as a drape or decoration, nor used on the floor as a general floor covering, but shall be stored when not in use for religious activity.
- One piece stereo system (10 W RMS or 50 W PMP, no condenser microphones, microphones, shortwave capability, loud-hailer capacity, recording capacity or detachable speakers permitted)
- 1 - Walkman type radio/CD player (non-recording)
- 40 - Audio cassettes, audio CDs or CD-ROM disks (combined) No CD-RW, CD-R-Write, MP3 Players, iPods, DVD or "burned" permitted (with the exception of digital media of a known origin, containing material that the inmate is reasonably required to review for the preparation of a legal matter)
- 10 - Video game cartridges/discs
- 1 - TV converter
- 1 - Cassette/CD cleaner (dry type)
- 1 - Walkman type radio/cassette player (non-recording)
- 2 - Headphones (no wireless and maximum 10' long)
- 1 - Game system – Game Boy, PlayStation 1, Nintendo or any other game computer (console or hand-held) that does not have data or other communication capability and is available commercially on the market
- 1 - TV with remote control (maximum 19" model only)
- 1 - Coaxial cable (maximum 10' long)
- 1 - Nail file
- 1 - Cuticle pusher
- 3 - Combs
- 20 - Hair clips or barrettes
- 50 - Curlers/curler accessories
- 15 - Hair ties
- 1 - Electric curling iron or flat iron
- 10 - Disposable razors
- 2 - Nail clippers
- 2 - Hair brushes
- 50 - Bobby pins
- 1 - Set of electric curlers
- 1 - Make-up bag
- 1 - Blunt end cuticle scissors
- 2 - Tweezers
- 1 - Electric razor
- 1 - Hair cutting kit
- 1 - Beard/moustache/nose hair trimmer
- 1 - Oral irrigation appliance
- 1 - Hair dryer/blower (hand held, 2000 W maximum)
- 1 - Toothbrush (electric) with maximum four replacement heads
- 1 - Toiletry bag
- 3 - Joint supports
- Make-up (value to be included in the \$90 canteen purchase)
- 2 - Racquets in total (tennis, squash, badminton, racquet ball, ping pong or broom ball)
- 1 - Pair of skates (not stored in cell)
- 1 - Weight belt
- 1 - Set of lifting straps
- 1 - Golf glove
- 1 - Ball glove
- 1 - Pair of bag gloves (no metal inserts)
- 1 - Handball glove
- 1 - Batting glove
- 2 - Pairs of weight gloves
- 1 - Pair of cleats (non-metallic and no toe guard)
- 1 - Jump rope
- 1 - Pair of wrist supports/wraps
- 2 - Sweat headbands
- 1 - Aerobic stepper
- 2 - Athletic supports
- 1 - Mouth guard (fitness)
- Sweaters
- Sweatshirts (pullover or zippered, no hood or inside pockets)
- Casual pant/slacks/jeans
- Golf shirt/T-shirt/tank top
- Sweatpants
- Shorts
- Blazer/dress jacket
- Shirt/blouse
- Skirt
- Dress
- Turtlenecks
- 2 - Ribbon Shirts
- 10 - Sports bras/bras
- 20 - Pairs of socks
- 3 - Pyjamas
- 2 - Pairs of slippers
- 2 - Pairs of winter gloves or mitts
- 20 - Underwear
- 10 - Pantyhose (regular or knee high)
- 3 - Ballcaps
- 1 - Toque
- 3 - Coats
- 1 - Scarf
- 1 - Swimsuit
- 3 - Bathrobes
- 5 - Belts (maximum buckle size 2"x2")
- 2 - Pairs of sandals
- 3 - Pairs of boots (winter/seasonal, no steel inserts)
- 8 - Pairs of shoes (moccasins, runners and dress shoes)
- 2 - Sunglasses (non-mirrored only)
- 1 - Analog watch (value to be included in \$1,500 maximum)