

PRISON

PANDEMIC

**papers**

CORY CHARLES CARDINAL





## Foreward

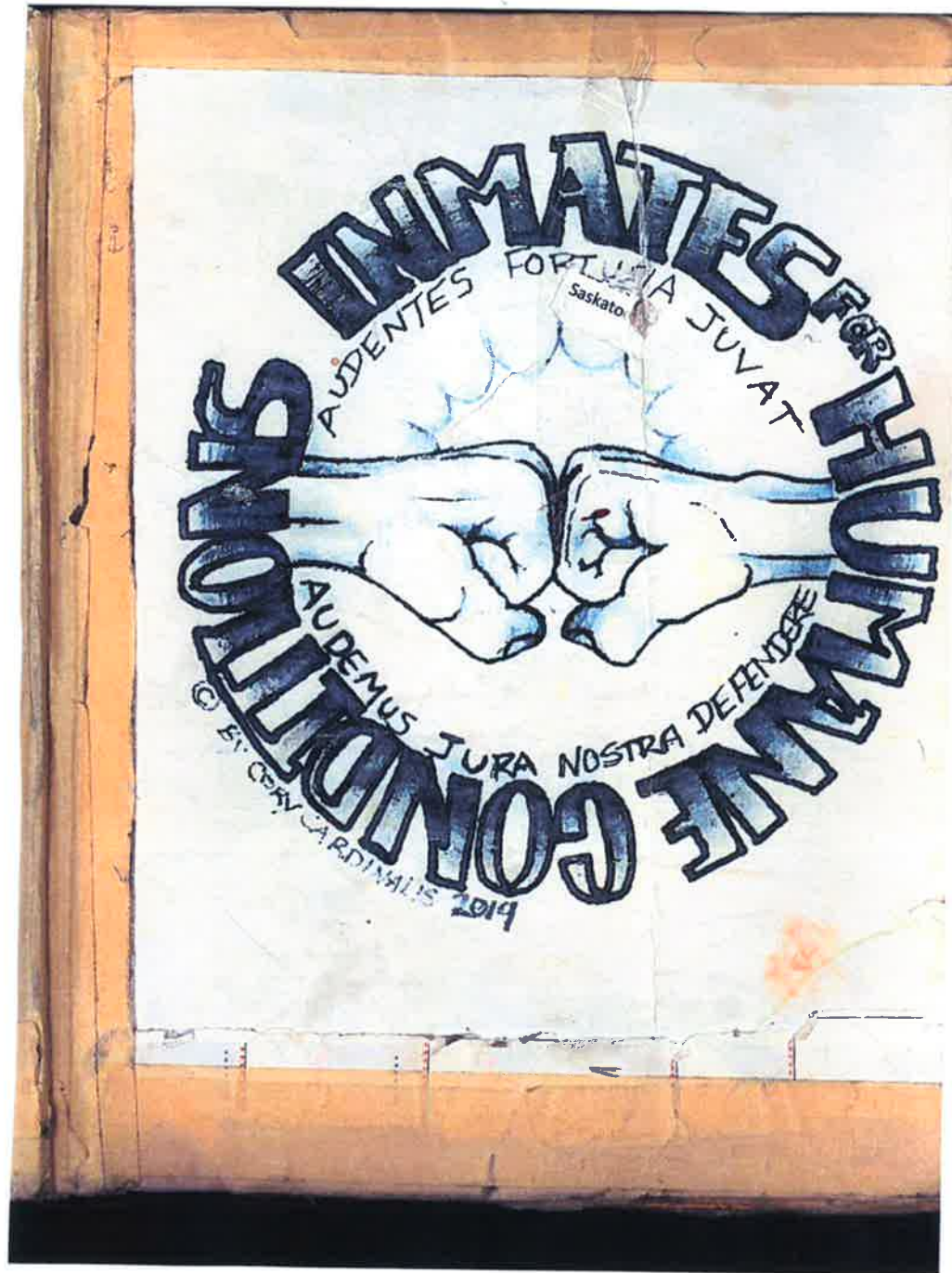
Cree poet and prisoner justice advocate, Cory Charles Cardinal, was incarcerated at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Motivated by a passion for justice, Cory was committed to speaking truth and resisting the oppression of his brothers and sisters during the pandemic. He co-organized three major hunger strikes to highlight the inhumane conditions inside and demand change.

This zine is a selection of writing, poetry and visual art about his individual and the collective experiences inside during COVID-19. Following his release, he entrusted his journals and other collected papers to Free Lands Free Peoples and asked us to assemble a zine that would raise awareness.

Cory once said, "The COVID-19 virus is the virus of truth." We continue to stand in solidarity and remain committed to truth and justice for Indigenous peoples and our incarcerated relatives.

— Free Lands Free Peoples





## A WARRIORS EXPRESSION.

IM JUST A MAN  
A MODERN DAY WARRIOR  
DIVIDED BY COLONIAL STRUCTURES  
CUT DEED STITCHED UP WITH SUTURES  
BABIES BORN SYSTEMATIC MOTHERS  
ELABORATE SCHEMES PREVAIL  
SUPPRESS VULNERABLE NATIVES BY NUMBERS  
PRISON PAINT PORTRAITS OF  
DIRTY LAL BRICKS HOLD HUMANITY  
INSANITY ETCHED IN A CONCRETE SLOB  
YOUNG LOST NATIVE KIDS FORM GANGS  
TO PROTECT EACH OTHER IN THIS CONCRETE  
GOVERNMENT NUMBERS JUNGLE  
INMATES UNITE LOST WAYS ARE FOUND  
THEY STAND TOGETHER  
A PREMORIAL CODE IN TRADITIONAL  
CULTURES REMEMBERED  
OLD WISE ELDERS SPEAK TALES OF TRUTH  
TO YOUNG LOST YOUTH LIGHT FIRES  
INSIDE THE HEARTS OF MEN PREVAIL  
UNDERSTANDING SETS SAIL LIKE  
SHIPS OF COLUMBUS  
THE RAIN WASHES DIRT AND PAIN AWAY  
NO MORE ROCKS NO MORE SLAVES  
OF MODERN DAY SUPPRESSION  
THIS IS POETRY  
SPOKEN WORD RIGNS HEAVY  
TEACH LESSONS INFLUENCE  
YOUNG LOST CONFUSED MINDS  
TO A PATH OF PROFFSSION  
A YOUNG ABORIGINAL WARRIORS  
EXPRESSION





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# INTRODUCTION

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE TRUE ACCOUNTS AND REAL EXPERIENCES FROM INMATES FROM THE SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE DURING THE COVID 19 OUTBREAK AND THE THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS THESE INMATES TOOK TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND EACH OTHER FROM A NEGLIGENT SYSTEM THAT FAILED AND EXPLOITED THEM.

WE THE INMATES OF SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL HAVE BEGUN TAKING ACTION TO STAND UP TO THE DOMINATING STRUCTURES OF SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION BY UNITING IN A COMMON CAUSE AS MEN OF CHARACTER AND DIGNITY AND FOR ACTIONS OF DEFENSE THROUGH UNIFICATION AND HUMANITY

I USED TO LOVE TO WRITE LITTLE STORIES WITH THE CRAYONS AND CONSTRUCTION PAPER GIVEN TO ME BY MY GRADE 2 TEACHER WHO WOULD ENCOURAGE ME IN MY CRACKEN SCRATCH AND MISPELLED WORDS.

I REMEMBER MAKING PLANS THAT I WOULD GET GOOD ENOUGH AT WRITING MY LITTLE STORIES ON CONSTRUCTION PAPER THAT I COULD SELL THEM TO MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO RUN AWAY WITH MY SISTERS AND BROTHER FROM THE SAD LIFE OF FOSTERHOMES

WELL FAST FORWARD TO TODAY I NEVER DID MAKE IT TO RUN AWAY RICH WITH MY SIBLINGS TRUE TO MY DREAMS AND HOPES BUT I DID DEVELOPE A TALENT





March 4, 2021

I would like to thank the many generous contributors and supporters of the Inmates for Humane Conditions inmate support fund, as the prisoners of Pine Grove in solidarity with myself finish our memorial 10 day hunger strike

THE INMATES OF SEGREGATION 3/4  
SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL STAND  
IN SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT  
OF [REDACTED]  
WHO IS ON A 10 DAY HUNGER  
STRIKE STANDING UP TO  
SYSTEMIC RACISM FOR THE  
REST OF THE WOMEN IN  
PINE GROVE CORRECTIONAL

Inmates for Humane Conditions created the inmate support fund as a long term fund that would support the common inmate for such thing as phone packages to keep in touch with supports, vitamins and food for pregnant inmates, and most importantly a contingency transportation funds so that inmates have the resources to find a safe place after release.

As we are codependent on funds, we encourage our supporters to keep donating and contributing to our inmate support fund as we are in the works in trying to raise enough money to buy a vehicle, so we can be in better desperate need of transportation to pick up inmates so they don't freeze to death.

Sincerely,

Cory Cardinal  
Prisoner Advocate

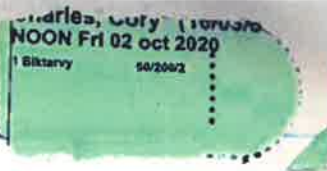
LEST THIS EVER HAPPEN AGAIN  
THIS IS A TRUE ACCOUNT FROM  
MYSELF THAT I TRIED TO  
REACH THE UNDERSTANDING OF  
THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT MY  
PEOPLE FROM AN EPIDEMIC  
THAT HAD INTENTIONS TO  
ERADICATE US

I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE INMATES OF  
SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE WHOM  
ARE INCARCERATED AND HAVE BEEN DEEPLY  
AFFECTED BY THE OUTBREAK AND  
THE MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONS POLICIES  
AND NEGLIGENT RESPONSE TO  
PREVENTING THE CURRENT OUTBREAK  
WHICH SEEN THE WORST OUTBREAK IN  
SASKATCHEWAN PRISON HISTORY



FRIDAY OCT 2 2020 @ 12:00 PM

12:00 PM



I HAVE DECIDED TO ACT ON THE MANY REQUESTS AND OBLIGATIONS BROUGHT FORTH TO ME BY THE MANY INMATES SURROUNDING MY BUNK AT NIGHT. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF QUESTIONS ABOUT EACH CIRCUMSTANCE

IS A COLLECTIVE REQUEST FOR ADVOCACY AGAINST THE PREJUDICE AND ABSOLUTE ATTITUDES OF CERTAIN STAFF. I FEAR RETRIBUTION AND TARGETING SHOULD I BECOME ACTIVE TOWARDS THEM BUT THE GALLING AND DUTY TOWARDS MY FELLOW SUFFERING INMATE GIVES ME PURPOSE AND STRENGTH,

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

9:00 AM AFTER COFFEE



I HAVE BEEN SLOWLY COLLECTING DOCUMENTS AND STATUTES RELATING TO INCARCERATION, AND INMATE RIGHTS INCLUDING THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ACT AND REGULATIONS, INDIAN ACT, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, POLICE ACT AND OTHER VITAL DOCUMENTS

I ALMOST AM SMUGGLING THESE RESOURCES IN!!



Elizabeth Fry Acting Director warns of "frightening" situation at Pine Grove

A10 SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021 BASKATOON STARPHOENIX

Woman on hunger strike over jail conditions getting weaker, mother says

I CANT IMAGINE HOW HARD IT IS FOR GIRLS IN THERE THERE NEVER IS ANY WORD FROM PINE GROVE. WE HAVE OUR FOOT IN THE DOOR NOW. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE LISTENING AND HAVE YOUR BACK. 18 DAYS' DAMN YOU SURE TAKE THAT SHIT TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.

### HUNGER STRIKE (FEB 2021)

I AM ON HUNGER STRIKE TO SUPPORT THE WOMAN OF PINE GROVE CORRECTIONAL SO THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR NATIVE SISTER DOESNT HAPPEN AGAIN. HOW MANY SISTERS MUST WE LOSE BEFORE WE TAKE THE ISSUE SERIOUS? WE MUST WAKE UP AND TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE VULNERABLE WOMEN THAT IS IN OUR POWER TO PROTECT.



JAN 19 71

I AM NOW HELD IN SEGREGATION  
IN A CONCRETE THINKING  
CHAMBER DESIGNED TO  
BREAK MY WILL.

- CORY CHARLES WAS NOT PROVIDED  
ANY CHANCE TO SEE HIS SECURITY  
ASSESSMENT SHEET OR SEE  
EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM USED TO  
JUSTIFY HIS SEGREGATION PLACEMENT

- CORY CHARLES WAS HELD IN SEGREGATION  
FOR NUMEROUS DAYS WITHOUT  
ANY INFORMATION ON WHY HE  
WAS PLACED THERE  
THIS IS A CHARTER SECTION 7  
VIOLATION AND A CHARTER SECTION  
9 VIOLATION TO BE PROTECTED  
AGAINST ARBITRARILY DETAINMENT

- CELL LIGHTS ARE KEPT ON AND ARE CONTROLLED  
BY STAFF, ONLY TURNED OFF AT NIGHT TIME  
THESE BRIGHT OVERHEAD LIGHTS ARE  
DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO AND NO CONTROL  
OVER THEM CREATES SENSORY DEPRIVATION

- LIMITED ACCESS TO OUTSIDE EXERCISE IS  
COMMON IN HOLDING CELL AREAS

SUFFER IN SEGREGATION

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

EVERY INMATE THAT COMES INTO THE  
CORRECTIONAL CENTRE NOW MUST GO  
THROUGH A 14 DAY QUARANTINE AND  
BE TESTED FOR COVID. THE CORRECTIONAL  
IS SEVERELY CHANGED FOR THE WORST.  
PRISON STAFF MUST WEAR MANDATORY  
MASKS AS THERE WAS GUARDS WHOM  
HAD COVID BACK IN THE SPRING. THERE  
ARE NO VISITS FOR INMATES, QUARANTINED  
INMATES ARE KEPT ISOLATED WITH  
NO YARD TIME AND ONLY 30 MINUTES  
OUT FOR SHOWER. THE COURTS ARE  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE ONLY AS MANDATED  
BY HEALTH AUTHORITY.

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

1:00 pm

THINGS ARE SLOWLY COMING TOGETHER WITH  
MORE DOCUMENTS COMING

\* THE GUARDS ARE STARTING TO ASK  
QUESTIONS.

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

9:00 AM

I HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY 30 INMATES  
TO BE THE INMATE REP FOR THE UNIT  
IN THE WEEKLY INMATE COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS WHERE ISSUES REGARDING  
ANYTHING OF CONCERN ARE BROUGHT  
FORTH FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE LAISON.



TOPICS FOR WRITING  
AND REFERENCE

- ACCESS TO YARD
- CANCELLED PROGRAMS
- CROSS CONTAMINATION  
INMATE MOVEMENT.
- HUNGER STRIKES
- REINTEGRATION LEAVES
- BAIL HEARINGS
- TREATMENT FROM  
GUARDS



*[Handwritten signature or scribble]*

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# Open Letter in Solidarity with Prisoners at Saskatchewan Jails



SMAAC

Jan 4, 2021 • 28 min read

We are a collective of community members, prisoner advocates, and penal abolitionists who stand in solidarity with prisoners at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre (SCC), Prince Albert Correctional Centre (PACC), Pine Grove Correctional Centre (PGCC), and Regina Correctional Centre (RCC). On January 4, 2020, incarcerated people across Saskatchewan united in a peaceful protest and hunger strike to call for an official apology and the resignation of the SK Minister of Corrections, Public Safety, and Policing,



January 5, 2021

If anyone has any messages of support and solidarity for the people sticking on the inside post them here.

They would love to know that there are people who care and are with them right now.

We can get the messages to them ❤️ We will share them anonymously.

This is an action that would mean a lot to them.

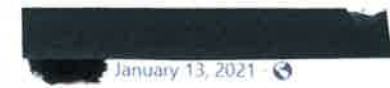
Thank you!



6 comments

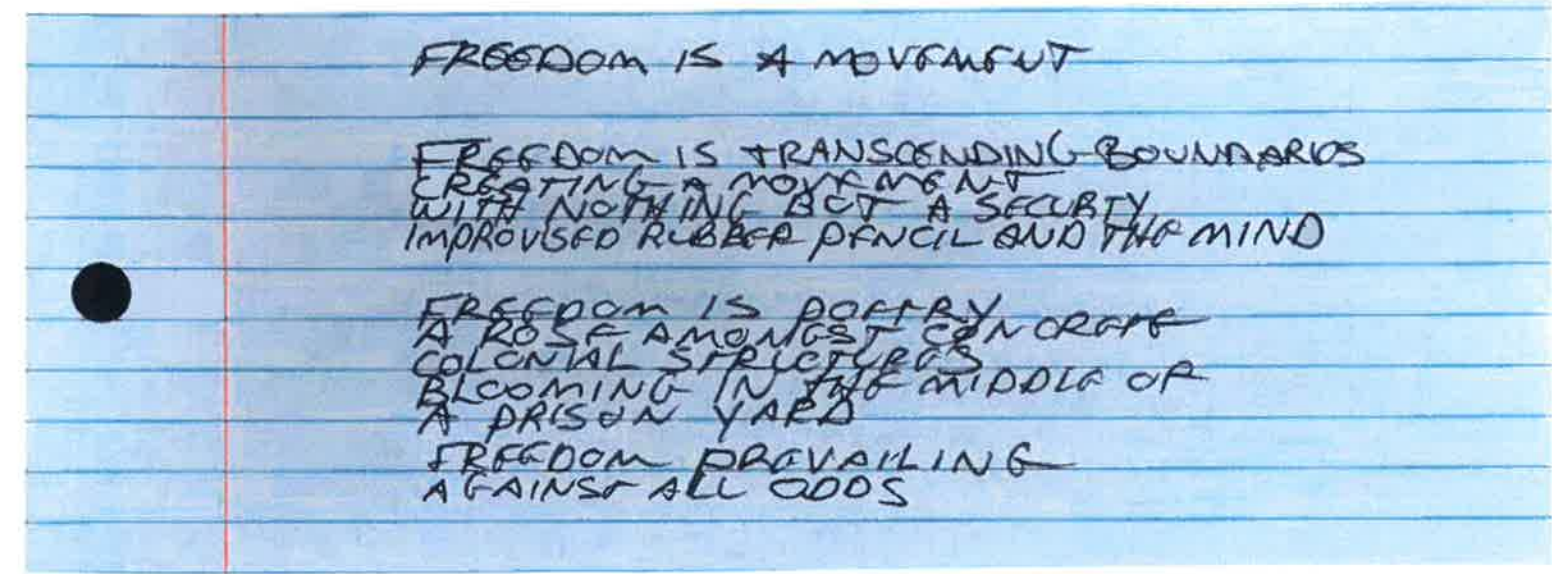
The open letter in support of SK prisoners has approx. 1425 signatures--wow. The goal for tomorrow is 1500. Almost there! Share the link if you can

In a recent interview, strike organizer Cory Cardinal said, "There's no words right now that I could possibly muster to express my gratitude for people out there that are supporting me and all the inmates in here.... Segregation is a place you go to get muffled, but reading everything in the paper, it gives me strength, it keeps me going, knowing that everybody out there is united in a common purpose."



January 13, 2021

One last push before the open letter in support of Sask prisoners is delivered to the SK govt on Friday. We're at 1600 signatories (incl. close to 40 orgs). Wow! Maybe we can crack 1750 in the next two days!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





## UNDRIP ARTICLES RELATING

### ARTICLE 7.1

INDIGENOUS INDIVIDUALS HAVE THE RIGHTS TO LIFE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL INTEGRITY, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSON.

### ARTICLE 7.2

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE THE COLLECTIVE RIGHT TO LIVE IN FREEDOM, PEACE AND SECURITY AS DISTINCT PEOPLES AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECTED TO ANY ACT OF GENOCIDE OR ANY OTHER ACT OF VIOLENCE, INCLUDING FORCIBLY REMOVING CHILDREN OF THE GROUP TO ANOTHER GROUP.

FURTHERMORE

UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

### ARTICLE 24 (2)

INDIGENOUS INDIVIDUALS HAVE AN EQUAL RIGHT TO THE ENJOYMENT OF THE HIGHEST ATTAINABLE STANDARD OF PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH STATES SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING PROGRESSIVELY THE FULL REALIZATION OF THIS RIGHT

ON BEHALF OF THE MANY INMATES AND STAFF WHOM WERE AFFECTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONS DISMISSIVE AND NEGLIGENT POLICIES THAT EXACERBATED AN OUTBREAK WHICH WAS PREVENTABLE THROUGH A PROCEDURE TO REDUCE HARM.

WE CALL ON THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONS AND POLICING TO APOLOGIZE TO THE MANY INMATES WHOM WERE VULNERABLE AND WERE INFECTED FROM COVID 19 WHOM WERE UNDER THE PROTECTION AND CARE OF THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM BUT FAILED TO

WE CALL ON THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONS AND POLICING TO APOLOGIZE TO THE 31 STAFF WHOM WERE INFECTED BY COVID 19 AND EXPOSED TO A DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT EXACERBATED BY NEGLIGENT POLICIES THAT CREATED THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE CALL ON THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONS AND POLICING, WHO FAILED TO PROTECT INMATES, STAFF AND THE PUBLIC WHOM WERE AFFECTED. TO RESIGN AS MINISTER OF CORRECTIONS AND POLICING



# A letter from the organizer of the Sask. prisoners' hunger strike

POLITICS by [Cory Charles Cardinal](#) Jan 4, 2021

Within this architecture of oppression, we are a vibrant community of strong, intelligent brothers who eat together, wrestle and play together, and protect each other from a system that has exploited us. This system is rooted in a dominant mainstream society voter-base that has, over 154 years, cultivated prejudiced values to elect a biased government that has reduced us to surviving on watered-down peanut butter sandwiches.

The current events surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak in provincial prisons is an example of the failure to protect vulnerable people in their care, an example of a 154-year-old tradition of ignoring the needs of a vulnerable people in their power to protect, which must not go unrecognized. This cycle of systemic oppression must be broken and must be recognized for what it is: a modern-day act of genocide meant to eradicate a vulnerable people.

We humbly appeal to the intelligent, educated minds that are more suitable and equipped in logic and law to employ and unite in conversations an inquiry into the epidemic of incarcerations, [overuse of remand](#), [over-incarceration of Aboriginals](#), and prevalent structures of colonialism, to mount a defense against the systemic oppression that has tortured our dignity and lives. Please include us in your model of humanity.

On behalf of a generation of young lost Aboriginal warriors,  
Cory Charles Cardinal  
Advocate with the inmates

Advocates are planning a day of action in solidarity with striking prisoners on January 6, 2021. [Sign an open letter](#) in solidarity with prisoners at the Saskatchewan correctional centres. [Join the Facebook event](#) to see a list of actions you can take wherever you are, to

OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS PROTECTED BY THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN SLOWLY DIMINISHING AND ERADICATING BY A TOUGH ON CRIME CONSERVATIVE MINDSET AGENDA SUPPORTED BY A RACIST BODY OF SASKATCHEWAN RURAL VOTER BASE

THERE ARE SEVERAL INSTRUMENTS THAT CONSIST WITH AND ADVOCATE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THE INMATE POPULATION EXISTS INCLUDING

THE TRC CALLS TO ACTION # 18

WE CALL UPON THE FEDERAL PROVINCIAL TERRITORIAL AND ABORIGINAL GOVERN. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE CURRENT STATE OF ABORIGINAL HEALTH IN CANADA IS A DIRECT RESULT OF PREVIOUS CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICIES INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS AND TO RECOGNIZE AND IMPLEMENT THE HEALTH CARE RIGHTS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AS IDENTIFIED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND UNDER THE TREATIES

TRC CALLS TO ACTION # 20

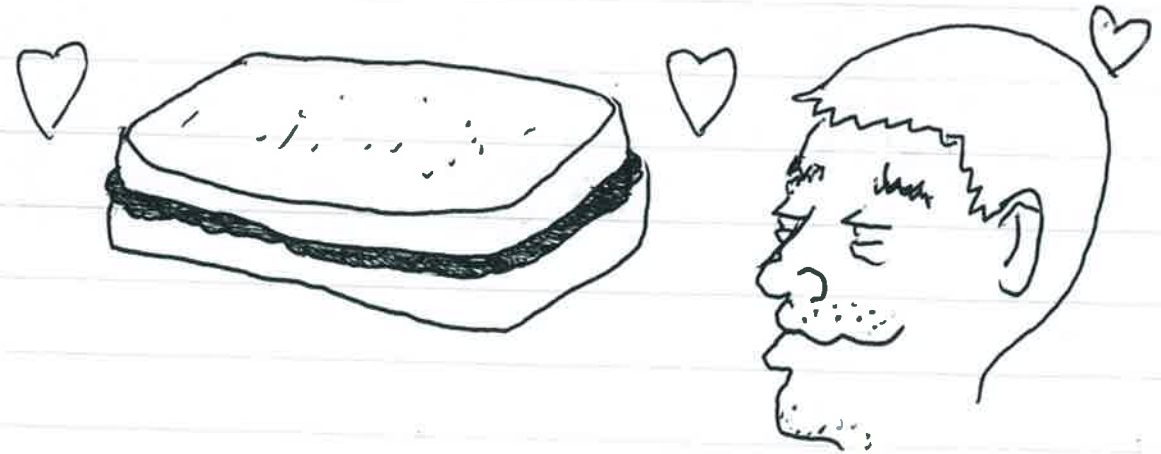
IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES CONCERNING ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHO DO NOT RESIDE ON RESERVES WE CALL UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE RESPECT AND ADDRESS THE DISTINCT HEALTH NEEDS OF THE METIS INUIT AND OFF RESERVE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE.



### EXAMPLE OF GENOCIDE

THE CURRENT OUTBREAK WHICH IS PROGRESSIVE IN NATURE, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ACT ON MEASURES TO PROTECT A VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC, THAT IS 8.5% ABORIGINAL IS A HUNDRED YEAR OLD COLONIAL SUPPRESSION AND MUST BE EVALUATED AS A MODERN DAY ACT OF GENOCIDE ON A VULNERABLE INDIGENOUS NATION MEANT TO ERADICATE OUR PEOPLE.

PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICHES.  
mmm





## OFFICIAL GROUND RULES FOR ACTION

- OFFICIAL START OF ACTION IS LUNCH @ MONDAY JAN 4 2020  
DOMESTICS MUST PUSH CART BACK AND NOT TOUCH
- EACH UNIT MUST NOT TOUCH ANY CART OR OPEN IT FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS AFTER THAT ITS UP TO EACH UNIT HOWEVER LONG THEY FEEL
- EACH UNIT REP MUST DECLARE THAT THIS IS A PEACEFUL PROTEST PROTECTED UNDER CHARTER RIGHTS
- ITS UP TO EACH UNIT TO MAKE A LIST OF REMEDIES ACCORDING TO EACH UNIT, THINGS THEY WANT RECTIFIED
- PRIORITY MUST INCLUDE: \$ INCREASE ANTEEN BACK TO 12.5 AS STRESS RELIEF UNTIL COVID IS DONE
- THIRD COLL KEPT FOR INMATES





PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

11 NOVEMBER 2020

ON BEHALF OF THE INMATES OF SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL CENTRE WE ASK THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE TO INFORMING THE INMATES WHOM ARE IN THEIR CARE SERVING PROVINCIAL SENTENCES AND ARE REMANDED WHOM ARE NOT SERVING LIFE SENTENCES IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC.

SASKATOON CORRECTIONAL HOUSES OVER 500 INMATES WITH 16 UNITS 6 OF WHICH ARE DORMS HOUSING EACH 30 OR MORE SENTENCED/REMANDED INMATES LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, SHARING BATHROOMS PER UNIT WITH NO CHANCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING.

3 LIVING UNITS ARE DOUBLE BUNKED ALSO SHARING ONE BATHROOM PER UNIT WITH UNLIKELY HOOD OF SOCIAL DISTANCING. THESE UNITS ARE ALSO USED AS DESIGNATED QUANTINATE UNITS.

THE QUANTINATE PROCEDURES FOR COVID 19 ARE QUESTIONABLE WITH DOUBLE BUNKED QUANTINATE INMATES ON THESE UNITS USING THE SAME BATHROOMS, SHARING THE SAME SHOWERS. AFTER 14 DAYS THESE INMATES ARE MOVED TO AN OVERCROWDED DORM.

SASKATCHEWAN HAS 3 TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR HIV INFECTIONS WHICH IS SUCEPTIBLE TO COVID 19. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS LIKE DIABETES, HED C, ASHMA ECT. THAT ARE PREVALENT WITHIN THIS VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC THAT IS INCARCERATED.

## HUNGER STRIKE (JAN 2021)

MY APOLOGIES FOR THIS INTRUSION TO YOUR DAILY OBLIGATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT REGARDING THE FOLLOWING PROTEST



A week later, on Nov. 17, an outbreak was declared. Prison-wide testing ensued. Around me inmates were bedridden. The tests came back and multiple inmates were declared COVID-19 positive. There was a feeling of despair, anger and depression. With no safe place to go, inmates spent more and more time in their bunks.

THEY ARE HOUSED IN A DORM WHICH HAS NO CHANCE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING. THEY ARE VULNERABLE

THEY PLATE CAGES LONGING 2 BE HEARD

My many attempts, through complaints, to get more information for inmates was met with ignorance. I had to take things to the next level. The health of my people was at risk.

I HAD TO TAKE THINGS TO THE NEXT LEVEL. THE HEALTH OF MY PEOPLE WAS AT RISK

The inmates gathered round in a circle, waiting expectantly for me to approach. As I stepped to my place among my brothers and fellow inmates, a show of true unification was symbolized. We were all working together to try to protect each other. Everyone had their own reasons, their own stories. We came to a common conclusion: the system has once again failed us.

We concluded and closed our circle with handshakes and hugs. We had reached a consensus — tomorrow we take action to protect each other. We hunger strike.

②  
INMATES INCARCERATED HERE THROUGHOUT THIS PANDEMIC HAVE HAD THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES ERADICATED. THERE IS NO VISITS SINCE SPRING. ONLY A TEN MINUTE EXTRA CALL VIA TELMATE. SWEATS HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED. THERE IS DISPARITY AND LACK OF PROGRAMMING. LOSS OF EXERCISE/OUTSIDE FOR QUARANTINED INMATES

THESE DISPARITIES AND HARDSHIPS HAVE INCREASED THE STRESS LEVEL AND CAUSED MORE INMATES TO DEPRESSION AND DESPERATION FACED WITH UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR THAT SHOULD THIS VIRUS HIT THIS PRISON THAT THEIR PROVINCIAL SENTENCES BE CONSIDERED PROBABLE DEATH SENTENCES AS THEIR FUTURE AND HEALTH IS IN THE HANDS OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

WITH THIS BEING SAID WE RESPECTFULLY ASK THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN KEEPING ACCOUNTABILITY WITH THE INMATES THAT ARE IN THEIR CARE. ?

- WHAT IF ANY PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE AND PROTECT THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF THIS VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC?
- WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN OR IMPLEMENTED SHOULD AN OUTBREAK OCCUR THAT AFFECTS THIS OVER CROWDED DORMS?
- IF THERE IS OUTBREAKS WITH HIV POSITIVE INMATES OR INMATES WITH PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS WHAT PROCEDURES OF HEALTH CARE CAN THEY RECEIVE



3

SO THAT THEY CAN AVOID BECOMING SERIOUSLY ILL OR FACE DEATH?

- WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ENSURE STRESS RELIEF FOR INMATES WHOM MUST REMAIN INCARCERATED THROUGH THIS CRISIS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF THEIR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND MENTAL HEALTH?

PLEASE CONSIDER THAT THIS IS A VULNERABLE DEMOGRAPHIC THAT HAS PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONCERNS, INMATES SERVING SENTENCES THAT ARE GOING TO BE RELEASED, REMANDED INMATES WHOM ARE NOT YET CONVICTED AND OTHER FACTORS THAT ARE MITIGATING AND VULNERABLE TO A PANDEMIC THAT WOULD AND WILL TURN THEIR INCARCERATION INTO A SEVERE HEALTH CRISIS AND POSSIBLE DEATH SENTENCE.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING OUR SAFETY

ADVOCATE FOR THE INMATE

CORY CHARLES CARDINAL  
INMATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
CONDITIONS.

127  
127  
29

# HUNGER STRIKE (NOV 2020)

Saskatoon · Point of View

## 'Tomorrow we take action': How Sask. inmates rallied for safer conditions during the pandemic

The health of my people was at risk, writes Cory Cardinal

Cory Cardinal · For CBC Opinion ·

A group of distraught inmates looked at me, their faces full of confusion. What do we do now?

Thirty inmates sat in front of the CTV News at 6, watching helplessly as the rising COVID-19 infections dominated their concerns. The absolute and dismissive replies from the staff only made the scenario worse.

### Positive virus test results fuel alarm among inmates

Cory Charles Cardinal says there's growing alarm on his unit at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre after hearing that three inmates and eight staff at the jail have active cases of COVID-19.

### Tight jail quarters, lack of visits take toll during pandemic, inmate says

### Outbreak at Saskatoon jail sparks discussion of incarceration issues

I began calling meetings with the inmates of my unit, slowly unifying them toward a common purpose. I reached out to Sherri Maier of Beyond Prison Walls and dictated two letters over the phone, sent through email to Christine Tell, the minister of corrections and policing. No response to either.

HOW CAN SCOTT MOE, CHRISTINA TELL AND OTHER POLITICIANS WEAR THE RED RIBBON, A SYMBOL FOR WORLD AIDS DAY, AT THE SAME TIME TURNING A BLIND EYE TO A VULNERABLE, IMMUNOCOMPROMISED, INCARCERATED DEMOGRAPHIC THAT IS SUFFERING WITH COVID 19 ON THEIR DOORSTEP?