

For Immediate Release
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John Howard Society Week shines light on correctional practices

A week-long spotlight on the harshness of correctional practices in Canada nears its end with an address from Senator Kim Pate on Friday, February 19.

Time-limits on criminal records

Senator Pate will speak about her proposed bill that allows for the expiry of criminal records. Her talk begins at 1:30 (Central Time) and is a part of John Howard Society Week across Canada.

“Senator Pate’s bill to amend the Criminal Records Act would make relief from old criminal records automatic once the crime free period has passed. This would avoid the expensive, administratively difficult and often arbitrary results that make the existing system so unfair,” said Catherine Latimer, executive director of John Howard Society Canada, in a letter to John Howard Societies across the country (see attached PDF and link [here](#)).

Brutal treatment during pandemic

“Since COVID came into being... the way prisoners are being treated now, and for the last year or so has just been brutal,” said Latimer on Sunday earlier this week in an interview with Murray Fallis (recorded on Zoom, see 11:15 here: <https://bit.ly/3u5Nd2p>).

“I think we are probably in the darkest phase of federal corrections in the last 50 or even 100 years in terms of people being confined in their cells,(11:29) ... and not having access to programs, not getting a fair shake at rehabilitation, and advancing their correctional plans so that they’re eligible for parole,” she said.

The Advocacy Committee of the John Howard Society of Manitoba supports this spotlight on the need for reform in correctional practices in Canada and can be reached for comment (see contact info below).

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The John Howard Society of Manitoba supports men in conflict with the law before, during and after incarceration. There are chapters in more than 60 communities across Canada.

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