

---

CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

---

**Date:** July 22, 2009  
**File No.:** 7401-03  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** General Manager, Corporate Sustainability  
**Subject:** Keep of Prisoners – RCMP Cell Block

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to forward a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General advising of the City's concerns related to the number of offenders being housed in the Kelowna RCMP cell block on weekends as part of intermittent sentences, the number of prisoners remanded from Kamloops awaiting court appearance in Kelowna and the dropping off for transfer of prisoners being transported to destinations beyond Kelowna.

AND THAT a request be made of the Minister to investigate the potential for use of the Kelowna Law Courts cells for weekend and transfer prisoners.

AND FURTHER THAT the Minister provide an update to Council on the status of a proposed jail site in the Okanagan region.

**BACKGROUND:**

The RCMP detachment on Doyle Avenue has available 22 individual cells for the keep of prisoners, both local offenders and those considered 'provincial' responsibility, including individuals transported from West Kelowna, Lake Country and other areas in the region. Depending on the mix of male, female and young offenders in custody, the maximum capacity in the Kelowna detachment cell block is 48 persons. The City is reimbursed via a formula calculation that is consistent for all municipalities and is aimed at fair reimbursement for all.

There is increasing pressure being exerted on the Doyle Avenue detachment's jail cells as a result of intermittent sentencing being served on weekends, which is generally the same time that cells are in high demand because of arrests made in the community. The transfer of prisoners on their way to Kamloops or other destinations is also becoming problematic.

At present, there are times, particularly on weekends, where 3 prisoners are held in a single cell, with one mattress on the floor and two on the concrete bench. This is considered to be unacceptable under almost any circumstance and can result in early release of some offenders to recapture capacity.



An RCMP audit has recommended improvements to the cell block of approximately \$400,000. This does not increase the capacity of the cell block. We believe funds would be better utilized in construction of a new RCMP building with a cell block that meets all appropriate standards. The planning for a new RCMP detachment will need to consider whether the City of Kelowna should continue to include capacity for 'regional' prisoners. The current version of the 10 year capital plan contemplates a new facility, however a financing plan has not been finalized at this time.

Recent statistics:

- 3 week period from June 26 to June 29 – 31 remanded prisoners from Kamloops
- Week of June 26 – 57 prisoners
- Week of July 4 – 51 prisoners
- Weekend of July 11 – 56 prisoners
- Weekend of June 26 – peak of 29 prisoners (25 males, 3 females, 1 young offender)
- Weekend of July 4 – peak of 30 prisoners (25 males, 2 females, 2 young offenders)
- Weekend of July 10 – peak of 21 prisoners (14 males, 4 females, 3 young offenders)

The Law Courts cells are presently used only as holding cells related to court appearances and are in operation during the daytime, Monday through Friday. As a result, they are not equipped for sleeping and would require retrofitting if overnight use is contemplated.

**INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:** City Clerk

**FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:** Funding and timing of a new RCMP building, including jail cells, has not been finalized in the City's 10 Year Capital Plan.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

**LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

**LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**EXISTING POLICY:**

**PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:**

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS:**

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:**

Submitted by:



P. Macklem, General Manager, Corporate Sustainability

Cc: Director of Financial Services  
RCMP Superintendent  
Manager, Police Services