

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

KEY MESSAGES:

- We are aware of the concerns being raised. Many of the issues are common to correctional systems across the country.
- Ministry officials continue to work with staff and their union to address their concerns and keep them informed of new developments.
- The work of our correctional staff is challenging and often dangerous, and the clientele they serve can be very difficult to deal with.
- The vast majority of Ontario's correctional staff are dedicated and hard working, and perform their duties honourably and professionally.
- The ministry has taken a number of steps to promote a working environment across all facilities in the province, that is respectful of everyone and that recognizes and appreciates the important role of our correctional staff in keeping our communities safe.
- Ministry officials are working to address a number of issues at this facility. For example, they are in the process of installing approximately 350 security cameras throughout the facility.
- Labour issues are best addressed through open and regular dialogue between staff, their union and ministry officials, and we strongly encourage all parties to continue working together in a positive way to resolve these issues that really are important to everyone.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services is providing me with regular updates about EMDC.
- At my request, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Institutional Services toured the facility in August and met with union representatives.
- I am confident ministry officials are managing the operations of this institution to ensure public safety and the safety and security of our staff and those in our custody.

**IF PRESSED ABOUT 24 HR NURSING/RESPONSE TO
DRYSDALE AND STRAUGHAN INQUESTS:**

- The ministry has implemented the majority of the inquest recommendations.
- The Ministry will be implementing 24-hr nursing coverage at EMDC.
- Ministry officials are working on the implementation plan, which would include hiring additional nursing staff.
- This is a priority. It is anticipated that 24-hr nursing will be in place by early 2013.
- With respect to surveillance technology, the ministry is in the process of implementing new security measures, including installing 350 security cameras at the facility.

**IF PRESSED ABOUT TIMING FOR SECURITY
UPGRADES/CAMERA INSTALLATION:**

- The security upgrades at EMDC are a top priority for the ministry. The RFP process has recently concluded, and the vendors have been selected through the competitive process.
- The project is being managed through Infrastructure Ontario, and it is expected that work will begin this fall.

IF PRESSED ABOUT STAFFING LEVELS:

- Staffing levels are based on the individual needs/circumstances of each institution. Ministry officials take into consideration things like the capacity of an institution and the types and amounts of programs offered. For security and safety reasons, we do not provide the number of staff on duty at any given time at a facility.
- The ministry is in the process of reviewing and updating the correctional officer recruitment process.
- There is a moratorium on hiring correctional officers while the review is underway. The ministry does expect to begin recruiting a new generation of correctional officers by early 2013.

IF PRESSED ABOUT CAPACITY:

- Contrary to media reports, the facility does not have capacity for less than 200 inmates.
- When the facility opened in 1977, it had a capacity for under 200 inmates. However, the facility was retrofitted and it has a current capacity of over 400 inmates.
- Overcrowding and capacity challenges are key issues for correctional systems across the country. The ministry continually assesses its capacity needs to ensure beds are available where they are most needed, and we have policies and procedures in place to manage overcrowding and capacity pressures.
- We are in the process of constructing two new facilities, in Toronto and Windsor, which will have a combined capacity of 2,000 beds. After the closures of a number of older, inefficient facilities, we will have approximately 280 new beds.

IF PRESSED ABOUT VIOLENCE:

- Those who work in the correctional system have a challenging and often dangerous job, with a clientele that can be very difficult to deal with.
- Unfortunately, despite the ministry's best efforts, violent situations do occur within secure correctional facilities – this is a reality for correctional facilities everywhere.
- On a daily basis, correctional staff deal with and manage risks of inmate violence.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place for dealing with violence and other inmate disturbances. Active management and staff awareness are key in mitigating risks.
- Correctional facilities across Ontario also have specialized teams of correctional officers that are trained to respond to serious incidents and crisis situations.
- Staff can never fully predict what any given day will bring, and that is why correctional officers are trained to handle a variety of different situations. All correctional officers receive comprehensive and ongoing training to do their jobs effectively.
- If criminal activities occur or are suspected, such as assaults against staff or inmates, the police are contacted to investigate. The ministry also conducts internal investigations into these situations.
- Ministry officials are working to address a number of issues at EMDC. For example, they are in the process of installing approximately 350 security cameras throughout the facility.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, and his management team are responsible for the day-to-day operations of corrections, and I have confidence in them to address any issues and make appropriate operational decisions.

CURRENT STATUS:

- Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC) is located in London, Ontario.
- In 1977, when the building first opened, it housed between 178-180 inmates. The facility was retrofitted and now has 426 beds (42 female, 384 male)
- Starting in late 2011, media coverage (mainly in the London Free Press) began reporting on allegations from inmates, staff, union officials, the local MPP and members of the defense bar that Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre is plagued with violence, overcrowding, frequent lockdowns and lack of programming, and that the conditions are such that the facility is perceived as being under constant threat of a riot or other disturbance. The London Free Press has stated that the facility is "a powder keg", and the local union president has reportedly indicated to the media that there will likely be a riot at the facility in the near future.
- A running theme in the media coverage is that the facility is built for less than 200 inmates, but houses over 400, and that correctional officers are not able to control the level of violence and other disturbances due to overcrowding, inadequate training, staffing shortages, and lack of cameras in the cellblock ranges.
- There have also been recent reports alleging that the facility is infested with bed bugs, and is generally unsanitary and inadequately maintained.
- The media also reported extensively on a July 2012 lockdown and weapons/contraband search at EMDC that resulted in inmates being unruly, and ICIT being activated.
- There also continues to be much media focus on the various lawsuits filed against the ministry by former inmates in relation to alleged incidents that have occurred at EMDC, and on the ministry's response to the recommendations from the inquests examining the deaths at EMDC of Laura Straughan and Randy Drysdale.

Drysdale and Straughan Inquests

- Laura Straughan died in November 2009. Inquest concluded in June 2011, with the jury determining that Ms. Straughan's death was caused by bacterial pneumonia caused by the H1N1 influenza virus. The jury made ten recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including recommendations to have a nurse on duty 24-hours a day, have separate male and female infirmaries, develop enhanced communications between staff, and "stringent" training for health care staff to identify situations where an inmate must go to the hospital.
- Randy Drysdale died in April 2009. Inquest concluded in September 2011, with the jury ruling that Mr. Drysdale's death was a homicide caused by blunt trauma. The jury made recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including implementing 24-hour nursing (similar to recommendations made in the Straughan inquest), as well as recommended the use of CCTV monitors, more staff, and better supervision of inmates.

2012 AMO Conference
Meeting Request – City of London

ISSUE: ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

Proposed Response

- We recognize the concerns being raised and are aware of the media reports. Many of the issues are long-standing, and are common to correctional systems across the country.
- Ministry officials continue to work with staff and their union to address their concerns and keep them informed of new developments.
- The work of our correctional staff is challenging and often dangerous, and the clientele they serve can be very difficult to deal with.
- The vast majority of Ontario's correctional staff are dedicated and hardworking, and perform their duties honourably and professionally.
- The ministry has taken a number of steps to address these issues, and to promote a working environment that is respectful of everyone and that recognizes and appreciates the important role of our correctional staff in keeping our communities safe.
- The ministry is working to address a number of issues at this facility.
- Ministry officials are also working to address the recommendations from the inquests examining the deaths of Laura Straughan and Randy Drysdale.
- Labour issues are best addressed through open and regular dialogue between the union and ministry officials, and we strongly encourage all parties to continue working together in a positive way to resolve these issues that really are important to everyone.

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IF PRESSED ABOUT CAPACITY/OVERCROWDING:

- Contrary to media reports, the facility does not have capacity for only less than 200 inmates.
- When the facility opened in 1977, it had a capacity for approximately 190 inmates. However, the facility was retrofitted (in 1984, 2002, 2007) and it has a current capacity of approximately 452 inmates.
- Overcrowding and capacity challenges are key issues for correctional systems across the country. The ministry continually assesses its capacity needs to ensure beds are available where they are most needed, and we have policies and procedures in place to manage overcrowding and capacity pressures.
- We are in the process of constructing two new facilities, in Toronto and Windsor, which will have a combined capacity of 2,000 beds. After the closures of a number of older, inefficient facilities, we will have approximately 279 new beds in the system.

IF PRESSED ABOUT STAFFING LEVELS:

- Staffing levels are based on the individual needs/circumstances of each institution. Ministry officials take into consideration things like the capacity of an institution and the types and amounts of programs offered. For security and safety reasons, we do not provide the number of staff on duty at any given time at a facility.
- The ministry is in the process of reviewing and updating the correctional officer recruitment process.
- There is a moratorium on hiring correctional officers while the review is underway. The ministry does expect to begin recruiting a new generation of correctional officers sometime in 2013.

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IF PRESSED ABOUT LOCKDOWNS/SEARCHES/ICIT ACTIVATION ON WEEKEND OF JULY 27:

- On Friday, July 27, EMDC was locked down for a contraband and weapons search. During the lockdown, some inmates were non-compliant with staff directions and were removed from their cells and relocated to other facilities in the province.
- On Saturday, July 28, the facility remained in lockdown as there were a large number of unplanned staff absences. During the lockdown, the weapons and contraband search continued.
- On Sunday, July 29, the searches continued and the facility was in lockdown again since there were more unplanned staff absences.
- Some inmates were non-compliant with staff direction and steps were taken to address these issues. Unfortunately, one inmate received minor injuries and was transported to hospital for treatment. There were no other injuries to any other staff or the inmates.
- For operational and security reasons we cannot confirm what techniques staff used to deal with the non-compliant inmates.
- The ministry has launched an internal investigation into this matter.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services is providing me with regular updates about EMDC. I also requested that the Assistant Deputy Minister of Institutional Services tour the facility and meet with union representatives on August 3 and report back to me on facility and labour concerns.
- I am confident ministry officials are managing the operations of this institution to ensure public safety and the safety and security of our staff and those in our custody.

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IF PRESSED ABOUT MINISTRY RESPONSE TO THE DRYSDALE AND STRAUGHAN INQUESTS:

- The ministry has implemented the majority of the inquest recommendations. The recommendation for 24-hour onsite nursing, and the recommendation for changes to the healthcare assessment process for new admissions, remain under consideration.
- With respect to surveillance technology, the ministry is in the process of installing a new CCTV system, including approximately 350 new and additional security cameras at the facility.

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NOTE: The City of London has not had any previous AMO/ROMA meetings with MCSCS officials on this issue. s.N/R

Background

- Starting in late 2011, media coverage (mainly in the London Free Press) began reporting on allegations from inmates, staff, union officials, the local MPP and members of the defense bar that Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre is plagued with violence, overcrowding, frequent lockdowns and lack of programming, and that the conditions are such that the facility is perceived as being under constant threat of a riot or other disturbance. The London Free Press has stated that the facility is "a powder keg", and the local union president has reportedly indicated to the media that there will likely be a riot at the facility in the near future.
- A running theme in the media coverage is that the facility is built for less than 200 inmates, but houses over 400, and that correctional officers are not able to control the level of violence and other disturbances due to overcrowding, inadequate training, staffing shortages, lack of cameras in the cellblock ranges, and poor sight lines for staff observation.
- There have also been recent reports alleging that the facility is infested with bed bugs, and is generally unsanitary and inadequately maintained.
- There also continues to be much media focus on the various lawsuits filed against the ministry by former inmates in relation to alleged incidents that have occurred at EMDC, and on the ministry's response to the recommendations from the inquests examining the deaths at EMDC of Laura Straughan and Randy Drysdale.
- The media also reported on a recent lockdown and weapons/contraband search (weekend of July 27, 2012) at EMDC that resulted in inmates being unruly, and ICIT being activated.
- On July 26, 2012, the London mayor had a teleconference with ADM Steve Small, and the Minister's Chief of Staff, Thomas Chanzy, to discuss growing public concerns about EMDC. The mayor was provided with details regarding the ministry's operations and the steps the ministry is taking to address the issues.

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Drysdale and Straughan Inquests

- Laura Straughan died in November 2009, while in custody at EMDC. A mandatory inquest concluded in June 2011, with the jury determining that Ms. Straughan's death was caused by bacterial pneumonia caused by the H1N1 influenza virus. The jury made ten recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including recommendations to have a nurse on duty 24-hours a day, have separate male and female infirmaries, develop enhanced communications between staff, and "stringent" training for health care staff to identify situations where an inmate must go to the hospital.
- Randy Drysdale died in April 2009, while in custody at EMDC. A mandatory inquest concluded in September 2011, with the jury ruling that Mr. Drysdale's death was a homicide caused by blunt trauma. The jury made recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including implementing 24-hour nursing (similar to recommendations made in the Straughan inquest), as well as recommended the use CCTV monitors, more staff, and better supervision of inmates.
- The ministry has implemented the majority of the inquest recommendations, and two recommendations remain under consideration (24-hour onsite nursing, improve healthcare assessments and process for newly admitted inmates)
- With respect to surveillance technology, the ministry is in the process of installing approximately 350 new and additional security cameras at the facility.

s.19

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

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Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre

- Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre is located in London, Ontario.
- In 1977, when the building first opened, it had a capacity for 190 inmates. The facility was retrofitted in 1984, 2002 and 2007, and now has capacity for 452 (46female, 384male, 22 special purpose).
- In 2011/12, the average daily count was432 (391 males, 41 females). The average daily remand count was308.
- The facility has a staffing complement of approximately 285 employees, and 2 fee-for-service staff. The 2012/13 base budget is approximately \$27.5M.
- The facility offers core rehabilitative programs, including Aboriginal programs, literacy programs, addiction programs and chaplain services.

Minister's Briefing Note

Date: March 14, 2012
Location: Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
Title: Civil suits filed against the Ministry and the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre

Issue Description:

civil suits against the ministry and the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre for inadequate treatment/care while in custody.

s.19

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

Source:

IMU Files, Legal Services Branch (Michael Doi, D/Director; Brian Loewen D/Director; and Emilia Moreli/Ginny Burt – Civil Litigation Co-ordinator)

Staff Contact:

Jill Binnie-Grierson

Authorization:

Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch

Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch

CIVIL SUITS AGAINST THE MINISTRY AND THE ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

TOPIC

- civil suits against the ministry and the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC) for inadequate treatment/care while in provincial custody.

OVERVIEW

- The ministry has a responsibility to uphold orders made by the courts and to treat inmates in a just and humane manner.
- The ministry has no control over the number of admissions to our facilities or the length of their stay.
- The ministry has policy and procedures in place when dealing with inmate rights and entitlements which includes a complaint process. Inmates have multiple avenues to register their complaints and that includes contacting oversight agencies which will advocate for the inmate such as the Ombudsman of Ontario.
- In instances where there is potential that a criminal act(s) has been committed either by inmates and/or correctional staff, the ministry and local police services conduct separate investigations.

CURRENT STATUS

- The ministry continues to safely accommodate inmates within the provincial correctional system as per the Ministry of Correctional Services Act and Regulation 778.

Request Number: CSCS-A-2012-04328

Pages 00016 and 00017 have been exempted pursuant to sections 19, 21(1) and 21(2)(f) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Type of Document: Minister's Briefing Note

- There has been media attention

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- In Ontario, at the end of fiscal year 2010/11, a total of 9,109 institution beds were available for adult inmates across the whole system (this figure does not include 568 beds that are open only on weekends for inmates serving intermittent sentences).
- During fiscal year 2010/11, approximately 87% of adult offenders under ministry supervision on any given day were supervised in the community (i.e., probation, parole and conditional sentence). The remaining 13% were accommodated in ministry institutions. These figures do not take into account inmates supervised on temporary absence or electronic surveillance programs.
- On June 27, 2012, the operational capacity for the EMDC was 448 beds and the inmate population was 469 which gives a utilization rate of 110%.
- The institution has 147 regular correctional officers, with an additional 38 fix term correctional officers.
- The ministry has a standard of mandatory training and there is a Institutional Training Manager at this site who manages and oversees compliance.



s.14(1)(i)
s.14(1)(j)
s.14(1)(k)
s.19
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- To help relieve capacity pressures,

- The ministry and OPSEU have established a number of joint committees to discuss some of the issues raised, including the:
 - Ministry Employee Relations Committee (MERC)
 - Joint Attendance Strategy and Implementation Committee (JASIC)
 - Explores health and productivity programs to improve health, wellness and levels of attendance and cooperative approaches to accommodation.

- Security Provisions and Inmate Population Management Committee (SPIPMC)
 - Established to address concerns relating to security provisions and inmate population management within correctional institutions.
 - Provincial Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (PJOHSC).
- The ministry is committed to safely accommodating inmates within the provincial correctional system. Institution officials/correctional staff are required to adhere to the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act* and its Regulation 778 which includes the care, treatment and safety of all inmates in provincial custody.
- The ministry makes decisions concerning the internal classification of inmates on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as safety and security are key to these decisions.
- Inmate placements within correctional facilities are the result of ongoing decision making in consideration of numerous factors, including but not limited to legal documentation; court recommendations and dates; inmate concerns, preferences and needs; information from significant others and medical professionals; security issues and institution capacity. Placements are intended to best meet inmate needs while providing the necessary levels of custody and security to ensure the safety of the inmates, staff and the community. Policy directs that, unless there are compelling reasons, special management inmates are afforded the same rights and privileges housed in the general population.



Approved by ADMO-IS:	Steven F. Small	Date:	June 29, 2012
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Approved by DMO:		Date:	
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Minister's Briefing Note

Date: July 5, 2012
Location: Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
Title: Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre – Institution Overview
Issue Description: An overview of the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
Source: IMU Files; David Hatt – Regional Director; Barry McDonnell – Deputy Regional Director; Brian Loewen – Deputy Director Legal Services Branch; Tom Dykstra – Deputy Superintendent; Vanessa Welch, Executive Advisor; Dave Au, Executive Assistant, CAO/ADM Corporate Services; Priscilla Barzola, Administrative Coordinator, CISU; Emilia Morelli, Civil Litigation Coordinator, Legal Services Branch
Staff Contact: Jake Irwin, Jill Binnie-Grierson, Sharon Howson, Lori Brazeau, Nathan Cadeau
Authorization: Terry L. Coventry T. Coventry for Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Kumaran Nadesan Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Bob Cook for Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Kumaran Nadesan Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry T. Coventry for Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Terry L. Coventry T. Coventry for Bob Cook Vanessa Welch Brian O'Sullivan Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch

*Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Correctional Services*

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE OVERVIEW

TOPIC

- An overview of the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- The Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC) is a maximum-security facility that opened in 1977 with an original operational capacity of 190 (including 19 special purpose beds). With renovations and reallocation of spatial resources, the current operational capacity is 452 beds (384 male beds, 46 female beds, and 22 special purpose beds).
- In the 2011/12 fiscal year EMDC's base budget was approximately \$24.6 million.
- On October 22, 2012, the inmate count was 445 with a utilization rate of 103%. Of these, 397 were males and 48 were females (*The 22 special purpose beds are not factored into the calculation of the utilization rate.)
- EMDC has approximately 285 staff (226 regular staff positions and 59 fixed-term positions) and two fee-for-service positions (non-ministry staff). Included in the aforementioned numbers, the institution has 147 regular correctional officers (COs), with an additional 38 fixed term COs.

CURRENT ISSUES

- On October 15, 2012, an article was released in the London Free Press entitled "Inmates still sleeping on floor at Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre." The article made reference to the visit made by the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Elgin-Middlesex-London and included several quotations from the MPP criticizing the operation of the facility. The article also made mention of a note sent to the Minister of MCSCS during Question Period by the MPP about his tour.
- On October 14, 2012, the MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London attended the facility unannounced and requested a tour of the

institution. The tour was conducted by two institution officials with the MPP and two union officials in attendance.

- During the tour, the union officials raised a number of concerns with the MPP. The concerns raised included, but were not limited to, increased weekend capacity due to intermittent inmates, overcrowding issues, limited programming, increased number of inmates with mental health issues, and the need for effective communication.

s.18(1)(f)

s.18(1)(g)

- On September 28, 2012, approximately 50 correctional officers and supporters attended a one hour information picket outside the institution to demonstrate against issues such as overcrowding, understaffing and safety concerns for both inmates and staff. Media was in attendance.
- On September 24, 2012, a summary of the EMDC Action Plan was shared with local Members of Provincial Parliaments (MPPs).
- On September 18, 2012, two specialized vendors were awarded contracts for the closed circuit television cameras project and the replacement of the central control panel project. The work is expected to begin in October 2012, with an estimated completion date of July/August 2013.

BACKGROUND

- EMDC has been subject to negative media attention for many years. The topics include, but are not limited to: inmate deaths and inquests, inmate violence, facility conditions, overcrowding, pest control, civil suits, use of force as well as various labour issues such as training, scheduling and absenteeism.
- On August 16, 2011, the office of the Ombudsman of Ontario announced their intent to launch a full investigation into how the province manages allegations of excessive use of force against inmates and allegations that such incidents are being covered up by management. The investigation will look at the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' response to inmate complaints, including how it conducts investigations and enforces policies on the use of force. Between January 2010 and August 2011 there were a total of 113 'Use of Force' incidents reported, of these two incidents were from EMDC.

- As of October 15, 2012, there are 40 local/routine "use of force" investigations in progress, based on the newly developed Local Investigation Report process.
- The ministry's Correctional Investigation and Security Unit (CISU) is currently investigating one incident where there has been an allegation of excessive use of force.
- Starting in late 2011, media coverage (mainly in the London Free Press) began reporting on allegations from inmates, staff, union officials, the local MPP and members of the defense bar that EMDC is plagued with violence, overcrowding, frequent lockdowns and lack of programming, and that the conditions are such that the facility is perceived as being under constant threat of riot or other disturbance. The London Free Press has stated that the facility is "a powder keg", and the local union president has reportedly indicated to the media that there will likely be a riot at the facility in the near future.
- The theme of the media coverage is that the facility was built for less than 200 inmates, but houses over 400, and that COs are not able to control the level of violence and other disturbances due to overcrowding, inadequate training, staffing shortages, lack of cameras in the cellblock ranges, and poor sight lines for staff observation.
- There also continues to be media focus on the various lawsuits filed against the ministry by former inmates in relation to alleged incidents that have occurred at EMDC, and on the ministry's response to the recommendations from recent inquests examining two inmate deaths that occurred at EMDC.
- On March 15, 2012, AM980 radio quoted the EMDC local OPSEU president as saying COs are "not trained to break up fights", and that they have requested more training but have yet to receive a response from ministry officials. The local president also made reference to the institution capacity.
- On April 5, 2012, the Minister toured EMDC.
- On June 19, 2012, in his 2011-12 Annual Report, the Ombudsman identified EMDC as seventh on the top 10 list of most complained about institutions for having generated 209 complaints (all complaints i.e., use of force and others).

- As of July 18, 2012, there are a number of outstanding civil suits involving the facility.

s.10

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s.21(2)(f)

- The media also reported on a recent lockdown and weapons/contraband search (weekend of July 27, 2012) at EMDC that resulted in inmates being unruly, and an Institution Crisis Intervention Team (ICIT) being activated (see **Appendix A**).
- On July 26, 2012, the London mayor had a teleconference with Assistant Deputy Minister, Institutional Services and the Minister's Chief of Staff to discuss growing public concerns about EMDC. The mayor was provided with details regarding the ministry's operations and the steps the ministry is taking to address the issues.
- On July 30, 2012, an MPP wrote an open letter to the Minister to express his concerns about conditions at EMDC. On August 8, 2012 the Minister responded to the MPP indicating that she shared the concerns raised and looked forward to the opportunity to meet in order to hear his concerns and share information.
- A media article dated August 3, 2012, quoted another MPP as challenging the government to call back MPPs early to make changes. "People's lives are at stake. I'd certainly support the Liberals going back early to deal with this."
- On August 3, 2012, the ADM of Institution Services attended the EMDC to tour and assessed the situation at the request of the Minister. The ADM re-visited the region on August 8, 2012.
- On August 7, 2012, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Institutional Services toured the institution.
- On August 9, 2012, the Premier was asked questions about EMDC when he visited London and noted that "this is a very important file on the Minister's desk."
- On August 10, 2012, members of the public conducted an International Justice for Prisoners Day rally outside of the facility to protest inmate living conditions. The media and approximately 60 people were in attendance.
- In the week of August 13, 2012, the Minister and ministry officials met with a number of London area MPPs regarding their concerns

about EMDC and outlined the ministry's action plan for the institution.

- On August 14, 2012, the President of OPSEU toured the institution and called on the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services to also tour the facility.
- On August 14, 2012, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and ministry officials met with the Elgin-Middlesex-London Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) and the Progressive Conservative critic. The MPP addressed concerns with the Minister and asked that a plan be devised to resolve said concerns. The MPP also urged the Minister to tour the facility.

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.65(6)

- On August 26, 2012, a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) attended the institution and requested a tour of the facility while it was still under partial lockdown to facilitate the ongoing Search. An institution official was given approval to conduct the tour with the MPP and union officials were in attendance. The tour lasted for approximately 30 minutes and most comments and questions were directed to the union representatives in attendance.
- On August 29, 2012, the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services toured the institution and other ministry sites in London as part of his orientation to Correctional Services.

- During the weekend of September 7, 2012

The institution was locked down to accommodate the search. All programming continued as scheduled.

- On September 9, 2012, an article appeared in the London Free Press focusing on recommendations presented to the ministry following a 2011 coroner's inquest.

- an inmate-on-inmate assault that occurred on September 8, 2012. The unit was locked down and an investigation commenced. The unit was unlocked

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

s.65(6)

- On September 13, 2012, a new initiative was announced regarding the implementation of 24 hour health care services at the facility. The target date for this initiative is scheduled for January 2013. EMDC will be the first institution in the Western Region to incorporate 24 hour healthcare.
- On September 17, 2012, an article appeared in the Law Times entitled, "Ontario prison conditions at all-time low". EMDC was the main focus of the article. The topics discussed included inmate deaths and inquests, inmate violence, facility conditions, overcrowding, and civil suits.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- In 1977, when the building first opened, it housed between 178-180 inmates in single cellular accommodations. Due to capacity issues the facility was retrofitted and each cell is now able to house two bunks.
- In 2007, a 32-bed Special Needs unit (male only) was completed and became operational with no additional funding.
- EMDC provides accommodation for both remanded inmates and those serving short-term custody orders. Admission criteria includes inmates being held under warrants of committal, remand warrants, Ontario Board of Parole apprehension warrant, National Parole Board and Federal Department of Employment and Immigration detention orders, police lock-ups and other judicial detention orders.
- The catchment area for EMDC includes the Counties of Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford. The facility expanded its catchment area to include Huron County on December 5, 2011, with the closure of Walkerton Jail.
- The facility offers core rehabilitative programs, including programs for Aboriginal inmates. In addition, the facility offers programs in literacy, Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous, life skills, and chaplain services.

CAPITAL PROJECTS:

- On September 12, 2012, portable eyewash stations were installed.
- A review of available Mine Safety Appliance (MSA) (portable self contained breathing apparatus) tanks and their locations will be conducted.
- The institution has a number of capital projects in various stages of design and/or tendering underway.

s.14(1)(i)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

- Retrofit Central Control & Closed Circuit Television
 - Central Control (CC): Upgrade
 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV): Expansion of CCTV cameras
- once
- the expansion is completed there will be a total of approximately 350 cameras.
 - It is estimated the CC and CCTV projects will cost approximately \$4.9M and will take approximately nine months. The anticipated start date for project construction is the week of October 22, 2012 with the anticipated completion date in July 2013.

Date	Milestone	Duration	Tracking - On Track - Potential Delay - Delay	Complete
RFP STAGE				
August 17, 2012	CCTV - RFP Release			✓
Sept 17, 2012	CCTV - RFP Award	4 weeks		✓
August 24, 2012	CC - RFP Release			✓
Sept 14, 2012	CC - RFP Award	4 weeks		✓
July 1 st 2013	Substantial Completion	35 Weeks		

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

- While these two components are being managed as one project, there are two vendors being tendered to conduct each specialized component.

- The ADMs for each program area ultimately approve the projects to go forward. Corporate Services Division and ADMs uses risk and value based approach to priority screening projects. Numerous factors are considered in terms of consistency with strategic direction, impact or result, and likelihood of occurrence, such as:
 - Health and safety, and security concerns;
 - Human resource and labour relations considerations;
 - Value, adequacy and integrity of assets;
 - Operational requirements and legal commitments;
 - Opportunities and/or partnerships; and
 - Costs and feasibility and timeframes.

s.14(1)(i)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

LABOUR ISSUES

Request Number: CSCS-A-2012-04328

Page 00031 has been withheld pursuant to section 65(6) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Type of Document: Minister's Briefing Note

- The ministry makes decisions concerning the internal classification of inmates on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as safety and security are key to these decisions.
- Inmate placements within correctional facilities are the result of ongoing decision making in consideration of numerous factors, including but not limited to legal documentation; court recommendations and dates; inmate concerns, preferences and needs; information from significant others and medical professionals; security issues and institution capacity. Placements are intended to best meet inmate needs while providing the necessary levels of custody and security to ensure the safety of the inmates, staff and the community. Policy directs that, unless there are compelling reasons, special management inmates are afforded the same rights and privileges housed in general population.

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.65(6)

LAWSUITS AGAINST THE MINISTRY AND EMDC

- A number of lawsuits involving the institution have been initiated

Request Number: CSCS-A-2012-04328

Page 00034 has been exempted pursuant to sections 19, 21(1) and 21(2)(f) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Type of Document: Minister's Briefing Note

Approved by ADMO-IS: Vanessa Welch for **Date:** October 24, 2012
Steven F. Small

Approved by DMO: Kumaran Nadesan **Date:** August 8, 2012

s.19
s.21(1)
s.21(2)(f)

Appendix A – Incidents on Weekend of July 27-29, 2012

- On July 27, 2012, at approximately 1300 hours, during a routine search

As a result,
the facility was locked down;
a Search
was ordered for the entire facility.

- o Regional officials advised that at no time were police requested for assistance (managed within).

Capacity report indicates that on Friday, July 27, 2012 EMDC had 426 inmates (384 males and 42 females) in custody with a utilization rate of 108%.

- On July 30, 2012, two inmates on a unit alleged that they had been sexually assaulted. Police were notified and were assessed by health care.

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

s.65(6)

Institution officials were informed that the LPS would not be pursuing any charges.

- o On the same day, an MPP from Elgin-Middlesex-London wrote an open letter to the Minister of MCSCS requesting the Minister tour the facility with the MPP and discuss strategies to address the alleged issues at the facility.

- o The fresh air program was provided to the female and worker units.

The fresh air program will be facilitated for unlocked cells at the regular unit designated times. Visits and programs will continue for all inmates.

The institution is to return to normal operations with the complete unlock of all living units on Monday August 6, 2012. Each unit will be dealt with autonomously in the case of any operational concerns

s.14(1)(i)
s.14(1)(j)
s.14(1)(k)
s.21(1)
s.21(2)(f)
s.65(6)

with the units. ICIT will be in attendance on Friday August 3, 2012 and Monday August 6, 2012 from 0800 hours to 2000 hours.

Appendix B - LAWSUITS

s.10

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

Request Number: CSCS-A-2012-04328

Pages 00041 to 00053 have been exempted pursuant to sections 19, 21(1) and 21(2)(f) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Type of Document: Minister's Briefing Note

Appendix E – Chronology of Reportable Information

DATE OF INCIDENT(S)	REPORTABLE INCIDENTS
October 21, 2012	
s.14(1)(l)	
s.14(1)(j)	
s.14(1)(k)	
s.21(1)	
s.21(2)(f)	
s.65(6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraband was found in an inmate cell. All three inmates housed in the cell were placed on misconduct.
October 18, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At approximately 1355 hours, an inmate assaulted a correctional officer <p>Police were contacted. An internal investigation will continue on October 22, 2012</p>
October 15, 2012	<p style="text-align: right;">The correctional officer was not injured during the incident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London attended the facility and requested a tour. Institutional officials had not received advance notice of the request for the tour. The MPP was accompanied by two local union officials. A tour of the facility was conducted by the Deputy Superintendent and a Sergeant. The MPP was especially interested in weekend capacity and overcrowding issues due to the admission of intermittent inmates. Due to capacity issues the facility had three inmates to each cell and one cell with five inmates. As well, some intermittent inmates were housed in admitting and discharge. The tour was completed without incident. At approximately 0700 hours, contraband was found. A Search was agreed to and conducted. During the search further contraband was found. An inmate claiming responsibility for the second contraband has been placed on misconduct and will be relocated to segregation today. An inmate was involved in a physical altercation with another unidentified inmate. As a result of the inmates injuries (unknown at this time) <p style="text-align: center;">the inmate refused police involvement (police advised of incident). Internal</p>



investigation remains ongoing at this time.

October 13, 2012 • An inmate was assaulted by an unknown assailant(s). The inmate was uncooperative and reluctant to identify the aggressor(s). The inmate was assessed by health care

October 7, 2012 • An intermittent inmate contacted the institution at 2112 hours alleging that he had been assaulted by an employee prior to his release. The inmate was asked to report to the institution. Upon his arrival, he was assessed by healthcare and digital images were taken. Police were contacted and staff members

October 6, 2012 • were asked to submit occurrence reports. Use of force (mechanical restraints) was required when a non-compliant inmate attempted to assault staff after being strip searched. The inmate was seen by healthcare and digital images were taken. During the use of force, one correctional officer was injured

The other officer incurred an injury. Both employee's were offered EAP, CISM, and completed WSIB documentation. The correctional officers were able to complete their shifts.

October 1, 2012 • At approximately 1752 hours, while escorting a new admit to segregation, use of force (physical restraint) was required to control a non-complaint inmate. The inmate attempted to assault (hit) a correctional officer and was further restrained (mechanical restraints). The inmate was assessed by healthcare and digital images were taken. Police were notified. The correctional officers involved were offered the EAP and CISM. An internal investigation commenced.

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

s.65(6)

September 26,
2012

- At approximately 1855 hours, unit five was locked down due to an inmate-on-inmate assault. During the lock down, inmates became agitated and started banging on their doors and flooding the dayroom.

September 20,
2012

September 17,
2012

s.14(1)(i)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)

- An inmate became verbally abusive towards a staff member. Staff required the use of force (mechanical) to control the inmate and escort him to segregation. The inmate was assessed by healthcare, digital images were taken and the police were notified. The affected staff member has been offered EAP as a result of the incident.
- Staff suspected that contraband was present in a unit. After consultation with the inmates, was handed in to correctional officers.

September 15,
2012

- The search was completed with no further contraband found.
- At approximately 1535 hours, an inmate became aggressive and noncompliant with staff instruction. Force was required (physical) to escort the inmate to segregation. During the use of force the inmate made a threat towards the correctional officer. Digital images were taken and the inmate was assessed by health care. Police were notified
CISM debriefing has been offered to affected staff.
 - An inmate sustained an accidental injury while participating in a recreational game. He was assessed by health care.

September 13,
2012

- At approximately 1738 hours, an inmate was noted to be in medical distress. The inmate was escorted to hospital via ambulance at approximately 1749 hours.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>s.14(1)(i)
s.14(1)(j)
s.14(1)(k)
s.21(1)
s.21(2)(f)
s.65(6)</p> | <p>September 10,
2012</p>

<p>September 8,
2012</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution remained locked down for the morning to facilitate a search after information was obtained which indicated
 <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;">No significant</div> contraband was found. Institution to resume normal operations following lunch service. • An inmate in medical distress was sent to hospital via ambulance at approximately 1649 hours.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At approximately 1755 hours, it was identified that an inmate had been improperly released at court on September 6, 2012. Police were contacted. The inmate currently remains unlawfully at large. |
| | <p>September 6,
2012</p> | |

- Information was received from an unidentified inmate which indicated there may be a

Search of the unit was agreed to. The search was completed at approximately 1630 hours; no significant contraband found. Inmates will be unlocked and programs to resume following dinner service.

September 4,
2012

- At approximately 1210 hours, an inmate was found unconscious in his cell following an inmate-on-inmate assault. The inmate was assessed by health care staff

s.14(1)(i)
s.14(1)(j)
s.14(1)(k)
s.21(1)
s.21(2)(f)
s.65(6)

Police
were contacted and will be attending facility
for follow-up.

At
approximately 1833 hours, healthcare staff
advised that the second inmate would also
require medical attention.

At
approximately 1845 hours police advised that
no charges would be laid against the second
inmate.

September 3,
2012

- At approximately 1320 hours, two inmates
became involved in a physical altercation in
the yard. One inmate sustained injuries

Police attended and interviewed the inmates.
Neither wishes to pursue charges. Follow-up
has been initiated with the institution
regarding the nature of the assault.

s.14(1)(l)
s.14(1)(l)
s.14(1)(k)
s.65(6)

- An inmate sustained a injury, which
required medical attention.

Statements and digital
images were taken of all involved and the
police were notified. All have declined the right
to pursue criminal charges.

September 2,
2012

- Regional officials reported that the institution
experienced a systems issue

The vendor was
contacted to make repairs.

By 2257 hours, repairs had

been made and the institution had returned to normal operations.

September 1,
2012

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

s.65(6)

- The offender Fresh Air Program was cancelled as [redacted] was found broken in the main yard. Institution officials indicated that [redacted] was broken accidentally.

Deputy Minister Tour Note

Date: July 13, 2012
Location: Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
Title: DM Tour - Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
Issue Description: Deputy Minister tour of Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre on August 8, 2012
Source: IMU Files; Barry McDonnell, Regional Director/A
Staff Contact: Kelly Huntington
Authorization: Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook Vanessa Welch
Bob Cook for Terry L. Coventry Bob Cook
Vanessa Welch

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
Correctional Services

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

Address/Phone:	711 Exeter Road London, Ontario N6E 1L3 (519) 686-1922
Superintendent:	Denise Scrivano
Budget:	The 2012/2013 fiscal year base budget is approximately \$27.5M.
Number of Staff:	Approximately 287 employees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 226 regular; • 59 fixed-term; and • 2 fee for service.
OPSEU President	Patricia (Trish) Goden, Local 108
Bed Capacity:	452 beds (384 male, 46 female, 22 special purpose)
Inmate Count:	On July 30, 2012, the inmate count was 473 with a utilization rate of 110%.

INSTITUTION DESCRIPTION/HISTORY

- The Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC) opened in 1977 and replaced the former Middlesex County Jail in London, the Elgin County Jail in St. Thomas, and the Oxford Jail in Woodstock. In 2007, a 32-bed treatment unit (male only) was also opened with no additional funding. The current bed capacity is 452.
- EMDC is a maximum-security facility that provides accommodation for both remanded inmates, and those serving short-term custody orders. Admission criteria includes inmates being held under warrants of committal, remand warrants, Ontario Board of Parole apprehension warrants, Parole Board of Canada and Federal Department of Employment and Immigration detention orders, police lock-ups and other judicial detention orders.
- The catchment area for EMDC includes the counties of Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford. On December 5, 2011, with the closure of the Walkerton Jail, the catchment area was expanded to also include Huron County.
- EMDC offers core rehabilitative programs including anger management, substance abuse (both male and female), taking control-making healthy relationship choices (female only), and Aboriginal orientation. The facility also offers literacy and Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous programs, life skills training, and chaplain services.

- On a bi-monthly basis, the facility provides staff with an opportunity to attend diversity lunches that showcase different cultures.

s.14(1)(l)

s.14(1)(j)

s.14(1)(k)

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- A number of capital projects are currently in various stages of design and/or tendering, including:
 - A retrofit of the Central Control Module :
This project is integrated with the closed-circuit television (CCTV) expansion project;
 - Expansion of the CCTV cameras
(tendered first week in July 2012). Upon completion, this project will increase the number of cameras to a total of 350,
-
-
- Recently completed projects include:
 - Replacement of the fire alarm system (completed June 2012); and
 - Replacement of the chiller/cooking tower (completed March 2012).
 - In 2010, three new hot water boilers were also installed.

CONTENTIOUS ISSUES

Media Attention

- EMDC has been plagued with negative media attention for many years. Topics include, but are not limited to: inmate deaths, inmate-on-inmate assaults, civil suits, jail conditions and various labour issues.

Ombudsman Ontario

- On August 16, 2011, the office of the Ombudsman of Ontario announced their intent to launch a full investigation into how the province manages allegations of excessive use of force against

s.N/R

inmates and allegations that such incidents are being covered up by management. The investigation will look at the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services' response to inmate complaints, including how it conducts investigations and enforces policies on the use of force.

- EMDC is one of five ministry institutions included in the Ombudsman's Office investigation. Between January 2010 and August 2011 there were a total of 113 'Use of Force' incidents reported.
- In the 2011-12 Ombudsman Annual Report, the Ombudsman identified EMDC as seventh on the list of top ten institutions from which complaints were received having generated 209 complaints (all complaints i.e., use of force and others).
- For more detailed information regarding contentious issues related to EMDC please refer to the following briefing notes:
 - MN - BN - Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre – Civil Suits (4);
 - MN - BN - Labour Relations; and
 - MN - BN - Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre Overview.

Approved by ADMO-IS: Vanessa Welch
for Steven F
Small

Date: July 31, 2012

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

Minister's Contact: (416) 325-6158
Ministry Contact: (416) 326-6874

Page 1 of 7

000065

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

KEY MESSAGES – SPECIFIC INCIDENTS OF INMATE VIOLENCE/ASSAULTS:

- It would not be appropriate to comment on any matters that are under investigation by the police or the ministry.
- It would not be appropriate to provide details about any individual in our custody, or to provide details about any individual's personal health information.

KEY MESSAGES - LAWSUITS:

- I cannot comment on specific lawsuits that are before the courts.

KEY MESSAGES - MINISTRY RESPONSE TO LAURA STRAUGHAN AND RANDY DRYSDALE INQUESTS:

- The ministry takes inquest recommendations very seriously. Ministry officials have reviewed and responded to the recommendations, and are working to address them.
- I have confidence in ministry officials to take the necessary steps to ensure that our correctional facilities are safe and secure, and that inmates in our custody are treated humanely.

IF PRESSED ABOUT CALLS FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO CONDITIONS AT EMDC:

- There are no plans to hold a public inquiry.
- We recognize that there are concerns being raised.
- The ministry is working to address the recommendations from the recent inquests.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place for dealing with violence and other inmate disturbances. All correctional officers receive comprehensive and ongoing training to do their jobs effectively.
- The ministry continues to work with staff and the union to address their concerns and keep them informed about new developments.
- There is also a process in place for inmates to make complaints about conditions of their incarceration, the treatment and services they receive, and institutional policies.
- Our government is taking steps to deal with capacity and overcrowding across the province – two new facilities are being constructed in Toronto and Windsor that will add nearly 300 net new beds to our system after all announced closures are accounted for.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, and his management team are responsible for the day-to-day operations of corrections, and they are entrusted to address any issues and make appropriate operational decisions.

IF PRESSED ABOUT VIOLENCE:

- Those who work in the correctional system have a challenging and often dangerous job, with a clientele that can be very difficult to deal with.
- Unfortunately, despite the ministry's best efforts, violent situations do occur within secure correctional facilities – this is a reality for correctional facilities everywhere.
- On a daily basis, correctional staff deal with and manage risks of inmate violence.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place for dealing with violence and other inmate disturbances. Active management and staff awareness are key in mitigating risks.
- Correctional facilities across Ontario also have specialized teams of correctional officers that are trained to respond to serious incidents and crisis situations.
- Staff can never fully predict what any given day will bring, and that is why correctional officers are trained to handle a variety of different situations. All correctional officers receive comprehensive and ongoing training to do their jobs effectively.
- If criminal activities occur or are suspected, such as assaults against staff or inmates, the police are contacted to investigate. The ministry also conducts internal investigations into these situations.
- Ministry officials are responsible for ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures are in place, and that staff are appropriately trained in this area. I expect ministry officials to take their responsibilities very seriously, and that they work to resolve any issues.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, and his management team are responsible for the day-to-day operations of corrections, and I have confidence in them to address any issues and make appropriate operational decisions.

IF PRESSED ABOUT USE OF FORCE/USE OF FORCE TRAINING:

- There are times when reasonable force is required to ensure the safety of staff and inmates, and to maintain control and security of a correctional institution.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place for use-of-force, as well as guidelines that set out the acceptable circumstances when force can be used.
- Excessive use-of-force is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Staff are expected to follow all use-of-force policies and procedures, including appropriate reporting and documentation of any incidents.
- Employees receive training on use-of-force techniques, as well as training on diffusing and managing incidents to avoid those situations that might require force.
- Ministry officials are responsible for ensuring that all staff receive proper training on the policies and procedures in this and all other areas, and for taking steps to address any issues or concerns.

IF PRESSED ABOUT PEST CONTROL/BED BUGS:

- There are no infestations of any kind at EMDC, including no infestations of bed bugs.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place to prevent and detect pest infestations.

IF PRESSED ABOUT CAPACITY:

- Although the facility originally had capacity for under 200 inmates, it was retrofitted and now has a capacity for approximately 426 inmates.
- I am told that there are in fact times that EMDC operates slightly over capacity.
- Overcrowding is a key issue for correctional facilities across the country. We have no control over the number of people admitted to our custody, or the length of their stay.
- The ministry has policies and procedures in place at each correctional facility to manage overcrowding/capacity issues, and the ministry has strategies in place to continually assess capacity needs to ensure that beds are available where they are most needed in the province.
- Sentencing of offenders is a decision for the courts/judiciary. The courts are also responsible for determining whether or not someone is remanded into custody before trial.
- The number of inmates in custody on remand (awaiting trial) has risen significantly over the last 15 years, now representing about 61 per cent of our total inmate population (up from 34 per cent in 1996).
- We know that overcrowding also has an impact on our day-to-day operations and is a concern to our staff, which is why the ministry has established a joint committee with the union to discuss these important issues.
- The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, and his management team are responsible for the day-to-day operations of corrections, and I have confidence in them to make appropriate operational decisions and take steps to ensure that those in our custody are treated humanely.

CURRENT STATUS:

- Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (EMDC) is located in London, Ontario.
- In 1977, when the building first opened, it housed between 178-180 inmates. The facility was retrofitted and now has 426 beds (42 female, 384 male)
- Recent media reports have claimed that EMDC is plagued with inmate violence, overcrowding, understaffing, and bed bug infestations, and that correctional officers are not effectively managing these situations.
- There has also been ongoing media coverage of both the Laura Straughan and Randy Drysdale inquest recommendations, and of the lawsuits filed against the ministry by former inmates alleging that they were assaulted while in custody at EMDC.
- On March 15, 2012, AM980 radio quoted the EMDC local OPSEU president as saying correctional officers are "not trained to break up fights", and that they have requested more training but have yet to receive a response from ministry officials.

Inquests

Laura Straughan

- Died in November 2009. Inquest concluded in June 2011, with the jury determining that Ms. Straughan's death was caused by bacterial pneumonia caused by the H1N1 influenza virus. The jury made ten recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including recommendations to have a nurse on duty 24-hours a day, have separate male and female infirmaries, develop enhanced communications between staff, and "stringent" training for health care staff to identify situations where an inmate must go to the hospital.

Randy Drysdale

- Died in April 2009. Inquest concluded in September 2011, with the jury ruling that Mr. Drysdale's death was a homicide caused by blunt trauma. The jury made recommendations to improve the delivery of health care services at EMDC, including implementing 24-hour nursing (similar to recommendations made in the Straughan inquest), as well as recommended the use CCTV monitors, more staff, and better supervision of inmates.

s.19

s.21(1)

s.21(2)(f)