



Assemblée générale

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Conseil des droits de l'homme

Trentième session

Point 3 de l'ordre du jour

**Promotion et protection de tous les droits de l'homme,
civils, politiques, économiques, sociaux et culturels,
y compris le droit au développement**

Informations communiquées par la Commission canadienne des droits de la personne*

Note du secrétariat

Le secrétariat du Conseil des droits de l'homme fait tenir ci-joint la communication présentée par la Commission canadienne des droits de la personne**, reproduite conformément à l'article 7 b) du Règlement intérieur figurant dans l'annexe à la résolution 5/1 du Conseil des droits de l'homme, qui dispose que la participation des institutions nationales des droits de l'homme s'exerce selon les modalités et les pratiques convenues par la Commission des droits de l'homme, notamment la résolution 2005/74 du 20 avril 2005.

* Institution nationale des droits de l'homme à laquelle le Comité international de coordination des institutions nationales pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'homme a accordé le statut d'accréditation « A ».

** La communication est reproduite en annexe telle qu'elle a été reçue, dans la langue originale seulement.



Annexe

[Anglais seulement]

Submission by the Canadian Human Rights Commission

The human rights implications of over-incarceration and overcrowding

The Canadian Human Rights Commission would like to thank the High Commissioner for his report on the human rights implications of over-incarceration and overcrowding in Canadian prisons.

In Canada, the number of offenders with mental health issues has increased significantly in recent years. In fact, mental health issues are two to three times more prevalent in Canadian prisons than in the general population.

Canadian prisons are now housing one of the largest psychiatric populations in the country, causing significant challenges.

It is vital that appropriate mental health services be available to respect the rights of this vulnerable population. However, this is often not the case, and offenders' mental health conditions may deteriorate as a result.

This issue has far-reaching human rights implications in the correctional setting. Offenders with mental disabilities are inappropriately identified as having "behavioural problems," leading to a higher security classification than necessary. Too often, inmates resort to self-harm.

The Commission is particularly concerned about the use of solitary confinement – or administrative segregation, as it is known in Canada – to manage offenders with mental disabilities. Prolonged segregation has been shown to have harmful and permanent effects on inmates, particularly those with mental health disabilities.

The Commission calls on Canada to increase the capacity and effectiveness of mental health treatment for offenders. The Commission further proposes that Canada limit the use of solitary confinement to manage inmates with mental disabilities, and to abolish the practice entirely for inmates with serious or acute mental illness.
