

PENAL REFORM

Penal reform cannot be brought about *solely* by those carrying the responsibility for administering the correctional system. The Government must be supported by interested and informed public opinion.

Recognizing this, the John Howard Society works in three major areas for penal reform:

SUBMISSION OF BRIEFS AND CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS — Well documented briefs are submitted to Government bodies where they will be of assistance. In recent years, these have included submissions on criminal law relating to treatment of sexual psychopaths and drug addicts; insanity as a defence in criminal cases; and the abolition of capital and corporal punishment.

CREATING COMMUNITY AWARENESS — Members of the Society — both lay and professional — strive to inform and interest the community in penal reform and problems related to rehabilitation through public meetings, speeches, press releases and day-to-day contacts.

LIAISON WITH SIMILAR GROUPS — As a member of the Canadian Corrections Association, the Quebec Provincial Corrections Association, the International Prisoners' Aid Society (UNESCO) and similar groups, the John Howard Society works closely with these associations towards our common aims.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Responsibility for the activities of the Agency rests with the Board of Directors. Elected yearly, the Board comes from a wide cross section of the community — religious bodies, law, psychiatry, finance, industry, and many other areas. In common, they are citizens with a *firm belief* in the work of the John Howard Society.

Meeting monthly, the Board controls the financial affairs of the Society and serves as a policy-making body and consultant for the Executive Director.

As well, each Board member takes an *active part* in the Society's work as chairman or a member of a committee.

Standing committees include Finance, Public Relations, Employment, Research, Clothing and Entertainment. This last committee provides regular discussion groups, educational courses, movies and similar entertainment at local penal institutions.

For further information, write or phone

THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, INC.

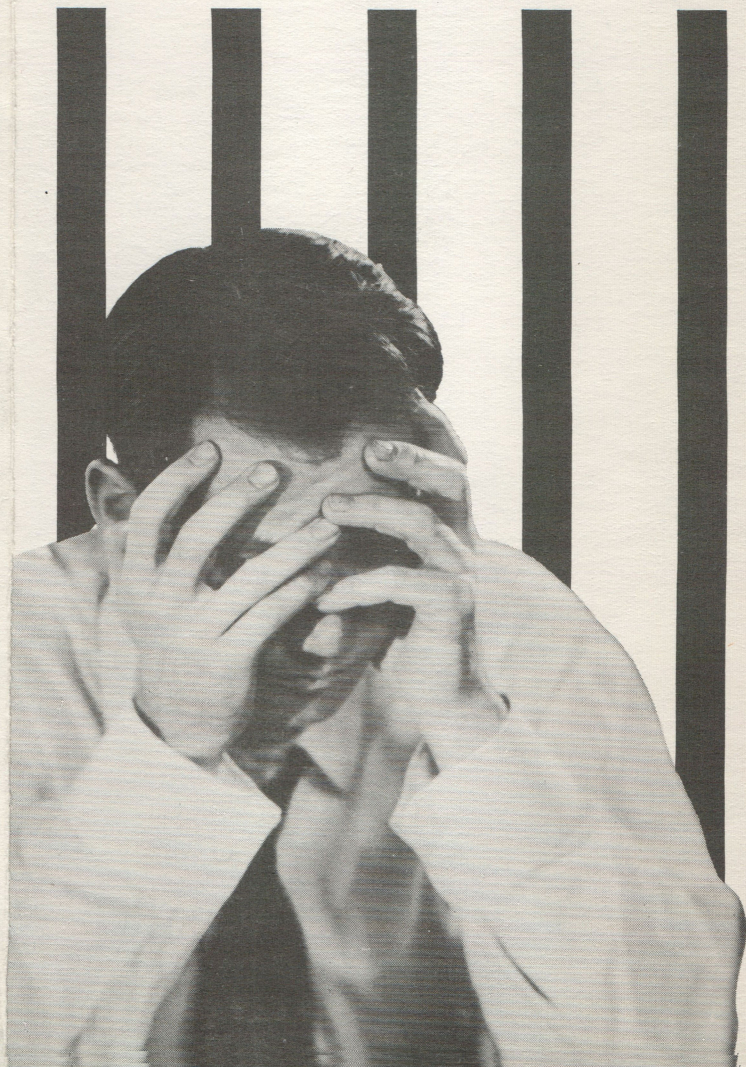
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THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, INC.

“...the only real protection for society lies in the rehabilitation of the offender.”

Fauteux Report, April, 1956.



Who was JOHN HOWARD?

Sickened by conditions in 18th century British prisons, John Howard, son of a London merchant, devoted his life to the cause of penal reform. Fighting public apathy, and often belligerent opposition, he succeeded before his death in 1790 in at least drawing attention to the desperate need for reform measures. At the same time, he undertook the first organized efforts towards rehabilitation of offenders after release.

From this beginning came the many prisoners' aid societies working in these fields today. In Canada and the Commonwealth particularly, John Howard's work and name are carried forward by John Howard Societies.

THE SOCIETY IN QUEBEC

The John Howard Society of Quebec, Inc., traces its origin to 1888 when a group of young men began visiting prisoners in the old Montreal Jail. Six years later, they formed the first local Prisoners' Aid Society.

Gradually other Montrealers started working in related fields — giving legal advice, studying prison conditions and fighting for new penal laws and the repeal of capital and corporal punishment. In 1931, these groups joined together as The Prisoners' Aid and Welfare Society. In 1947, the name was changed to The John Howard Society of Quebec, Inc., in line with similar organizations across Canada.

A member agency of the Welfare Federation of Montreal, the John Howard Society is financed through the annual Red Feather campaign, Provincial and Federal Government grants and individual donations.

THE SOCIETY'S WORK

Today the role of the John Howard Society is a dual one — to help in the rehabilitation of the adult offender and to promote penal reform.

REHABILITATION

What can be expected from a man who "comes outside" without a job, without a reputation, without money, without friends and, in many instances, rejected by his own family?

Often on release he finds, because of prejudice and apathy in the community, there is no place for him. Without assistance and the acceptance of society, his only recourse is a return to crime.

This is the crucial period — the period when agencies such as the John Howard Society do their *most effective* work by helping the offender to help himself regain a secure position in the community.

Aside from the purely humane aspect, this salvaging of human lives provides the only real protection for society and a very direct, substantial saving in public

funds. The yearly cost of keeping a man in prison is estimated at \$2,500. This sum does not include court costs or the cost to the community for support of the family while the bread-winner is incarcerated.

The work of Rehabilitation is carried on by full-time, *professional* caseworkers on the staff of the Society.

Their day-to-day activities include:

1 IN-PRISON INTERVIEWS — Regular visits are made to the four Federal Institutions in the Province of Quebec and to Bordeaux and Fullum Jails. Counselling service is made available to the inmates to help them resolve their many underlying problems which led to their incarceration and to plan realistically with them for the period following their release.

2 INTERVIEWS WITH ADULTS IN THE TRIAL WARDS — "The methods, the resolves, the insights of those *first few hours* after apprehension could, if skilfully dealt with, probably do more toward changing the direction of the life involved than the elaborate devices of the penal law and all the skilled penologists combined." (Mr. James V. Bennett, Director of the Federal Prison Bureau of the United States.)

3 GROUP SESSIONS WITH FAMILIES OF ADULTS OFFENDERS — Weekly group discussion meetings are held for relatives of inmates and of released men and women.

4 PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES — Regular liaison is maintained with the psychiatric services available in the City. In addition psychiatric consultation periods are held for discussion of selected cases.

5 GROUP SESSIONS WITH SHORT TERM INMATES — Group discussions are held in the Montreal Jail.

6 PAROLEES — Each year a number of inmates are released on parole — under the supervision of the agency.

7 WORK IN THE COURTS — To aid the courts in more objective sentencing of offenders, pre-sentence reports, detailing social histories and other pertinent facts are prepared for the Judges in selected cases. Some of these cases may be placed under the supervision of the agency instead of being sentenced to jail.

8 JOB PLACEMENT — Through the Special Placement Section of the National Employment Service, Board Members and individual citizens, efforts are made to find employment for ex-inmates.

9 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE — Basic needs must be met. An ever increasing amount of funds is needed annually for food, clothing, housing, transportation and tools.