



MYTH-BUSTING FACT SHEET

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CLAIMS

THE EVIDENCE AND THE FACTS

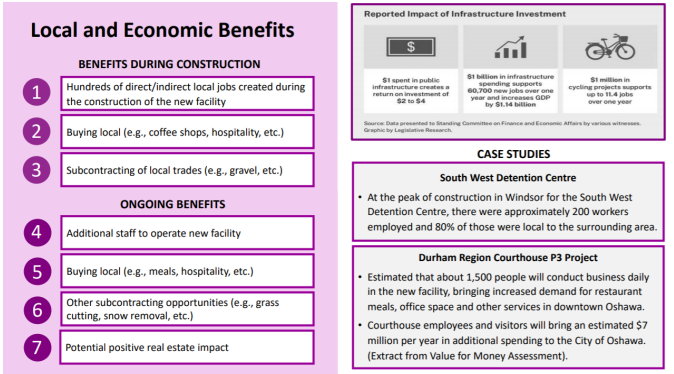
<p>A new jail is needed; we need jails and they have to go somewhere.</p>	<p>If the provincial government took the steps to fix the bail/remand system, which they have long said they would do, no new jails would be needed.</p> <p>Roughly 65 – 70 per cent of prisoners in Ontario jails are on remand simply awaiting their day in our clogged courts, or for sentencing. Provincial officials admit that thousands of these prisoners could safely be on bail, and have promised to reform the bail system for years. So why spend hundreds of millions of dollars on more prison spaces? (Ottawa Citizen, https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/doyle-and-piche-eastern-ontario-should-say-no-to-prison-expansion-in-2021)</p>
<p>A new jail will bring jobs to Kemptville, such as subcontracting opportunities (e.g., grass cutting, snow removal)”</p>	<p>The “500 new jobs” are not local to North Grenville, but rather province-wide over 5 years; https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/57233/ontario-investing-in-frontline-corrections-workers</p>
<p>Additional staff will be required to operate the new facility.</p>	<p>The bulk of the staffing will be from transfers from ODC and other provincial prisons. SolGen stated that they based their planned location in Kemptville on a “heat map” of their existing staff. (PPT Heat Map below of existing staff).</p> <div data-bbox="695 1417 1279 1864" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Staff Heat Map</p> <p style="font-size: small;">7 Ministry of the Solicitor General Ontario</p> </div>

	<p>Site Selection</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Site selection rationale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already in government portfolio (government policy) • Value for money • Private land purchase costs ranged from \$10M - \$40M • Appropriate size to accommodate new facility • Within catchment area of existing facility in Ottawa • Adjacent to the highway 416 • No development impediments (i.e. liens, 3rd party rights) • Staff home locations in proximity to new location • Build smaller, more efficient and manageable sized facility </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conceptual design greyed out due to commercial sensitivities. • Plan is conceptual and subject to further studies, investigations and approvals prior to final placement on property. </div> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">10 Ministry of the Solicitor General Ontario</p> <p>Also, the above slide lists “Staff home locations in proximity to new locations” as a rationale for site selection. This indicates that existing staff will be used and very few new local jobs will be created.</p>
<p>The proposed jail will be a state-of-the-art facility.</p>	<p>The 2019 <u>Auditor General of Ontario’s Report</u> on correctional services found that 117 lives have been lost in the province’s sites of confinement within the past five years. A new building does not mean that old, outdated, inhumane policies will change and that prisoners with addiction or mental health issues will have access to needed treatment.</p>
<p>The proposed jail, unlike Ontario’s existing prisons, will actually rehabilitate rather than harm prisoners.</p>	<p>The Ontario Government has said this before, it did not work and nothing has changed. No evidence or specifics on how this prison would somehow be different; the statement largely repeats the same broken promises previously made about many other new jails.</p> <p>https://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/doyle-and-piche-eastern-ontario-should-say-no-to-prison-expansion-in-2021)</p>
<p>There will not be any significant demand placed on local hospital(s)</p>	<p>Burritt’s Rapids jail did put significant demand on the Kemptville Hospital. Frequent yet unpredictable health care for both inmates and correctional staff was necessary. (Stakeholder Consultation October 30, 2020).</p>
<p>The province looked at over 100 potential sites before choosing Kemptville</p>	<p>SolGen officials referred to close to 130 locations (Public Engagement Session November 26, 2020). Although requested by participants, they have not provided any information about where they looked. Freedom of Information requests on the subject have not been responded to.</p>
<p>The buildings on the land are not being used (Public Engagement Session November 26, 2020)</p>	<p>The buildings are part of the Municipality’s hosting of the 2022 International Plowing Match. The land and buildings were also part of the Municipality’s desire to connect the “farmland” with the rest of the Kemptville Campus, as well a P3 proposal that was being explored before the government’s announcement, without consultation.</p>

There will be ongoing economic benefits once the prison is operational, such as like buying local (e.g., coffee shops, hospitality, snow removal).

No evidence has been provided to back up this claim of economic benefits. Contracts from large companies are used to provide food for the prisoners. Local food/grocery businesses will benefit little.

Goods and services purchased by a prison are either processed through state procurement systems or a private prison company’s purchasing system, both of which centralize purchasing to maximize economies of scale and usually allow very limited local discretion to individual prisons to purchase independently.



There will be hundreds of direct/indirect jobs created during the construction of the new facility.

Facilities of this size are built by large companies who successfully bid on the project. Very few subcontracting jobs are available to local companies.

Premier Ford has claimed that [the \$500M for prisons] will contribute significantly to the [post-COVID] economic recovery.

There is scant evidence that this is true. Little research has been done in Canada on the economic consequences of building prisons, and the few papers that do exist suggest that local towns don’t generally reap the rewards.

Officials have used the figure of 17,000 people in North Grenville to compare with other places where jails have been built, for example the City of Brockville with a population of about 21,000 people

The proposal is for a 235-bed jail in Kemptville, which has only 4,000 people; a fairer comparison would be to say that Kemptville (4,000 population) and Brockville (21,000) are both in Leeds and Grenville (population 70,000). Brockville’s population is therefore 5 times bigger than Kemptville’s, with a proposed 66 beds in Brockville versus 235 beds in Kemptville.

Social supports in Kemptville exist to support the facility’s needs.

Kemptville lacks most of the social supports and local infrastructure upon which urban area correctional facilities rely.

<p>Academic research stating prisons in rural areas do more harm than good is from the USA and outdated.</p>	<p>Both American and Canadian studies show that prisons in rural areas do more overall harm than good. Roughly three decades of information has generated research data that consistently indicates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/ Prisons generate fewer linkages in the local economy compared to manufacturing and other industries. 2/ Forecasting of employment and economic impacts of rural prisons are often overly optimistic. 3/ There may be a stigma of being a “prison town” which can make it more difficult to attract other investment and less desirable for potential new residents. 4/ Tax revenues are lower than expected because many staff of the facility do not live in the prison town. 5/ Goods and services are purchased by prisons through established procurement processes, to centralize and maximize economies of scale, thus limiting discretion to purchase locally and independently.
<p>The Provincial Government has made the announcement and it is therefore a fait accompli.</p>	<p>The proposed prison is an ill-conceived plan. The current provincial government has backtracked on a number of announcements: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/doug-ford-ontario-cuts-backtrack-1.5308060</p> <p>Some examples as at October 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamilton LRT • Legal Aid funding cuts • E-learning and class sizes • CAS funding • Public Health cuts • Child care • Transition Child Benefit • Greenbelt development • Size of Cabinet
<p>The Provincial Govt. doesn't need to consult with local government or residents before proceeding with their plan.</p>	<p>The provincial government can use a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) to directly zone land for a particular purpose. The Minister does not have to give notice or consult with the public prior to issuing or revoking a zoning order</p> <p>MPP Steve Clark stated that the provincial government does not want or intend to use an MZO for the proposed site in Kemptville.</p>