

STOP the Kemptville Prison



A section of the targeted farmland

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On August 27, 2020, without any consultation or warning, the Government of Ontario announced plans to build the 235-bed “Greater Ottawa Correctional Complex”, later renamed the “**Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex**”, in **Kemptville**.

The Coalition Against the Proposed Prison (CAPP) asks you to say **NO** to Doug Ford and Steve Clark!

A Unique and Historic Parcel of Farmland

The farmland targeted for the new prison was formerly part of the Kemptville Agricultural School established in 1917 and is on unceded Algonquin Territory. The Municipality of North Grenville acquired approximately 630 of the school’s more than 800 acres and completed an ambitious Kemptville Campus Master Plan for a “new green community hub and destination”. MPP Steve Clark was fully aware of the municipality’s desire to acquire the remaining lands as part of the campus, even as his government was planning behind closed doors to build the new prison. Ultimately, if Kemptville is to lose control over the future of the farmland, it should be as an act of reconciliation through transferring the land back to the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

Community Limitations and Risks

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|  No public transit system | ▶ Barrier to family visits and prisoners returning to home communities |
|  Lack of local social services | ▶ Inadequate supports for prisoners and their families upon release |
|  Inadequate infrastructure (roads, sewer and water systems) | ▶ Infrastructure demand/potential property tax increases |
|  Inadequate healthcare within provincial prisons | ▶ Increased pressure on our local hospital |

The Myth of Economic Benefits

The Ford government’s initial claims that the prison would boost the local economy have turned out to be dramatically exaggerated. Most jobs in the prison will be filled by existing staff from elsewhere. Prison jobs are tied to high rates of staff trauma, as well as drug and alcohol problems. Many studies show that building prisons does not boost small town economies and that our real estate prices will drop. The Ford government is keeping the price of the new prison a secret, but based on recent builds elsewhere in Ontario, it will cost at least \$250 million. Ontario is already facing a record provincial debt and unprecedented pressures on its health, education, and long-term care sectors. As it tries to recover from the pandemic’s devastation, scarce public funds need to be invested in people and communities, not prisons.



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Coalition Against Proposed Prison



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A Failing System in Need of Change

The Ford government has not produced the numbers to demonstrate the need for another prison. The Kemptville prison is aimed at easing pressure on the notorious Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, pressure caused mostly by our bail and remand system not working properly. The Ford government admits to these problems with the bail system and has promised to address them. They were able to reduce prison populations by 30% during the pandemic without an increase in law-breaking. People who have experienced racism, poverty, homelessness, mental health and drug use issues are heavily represented in Ontario's prisons. Many experts acknowledge that incarceration does more harm than good and are pushing for wider use of alternatives to prison.



Roughly 70% of prisoners in Ontario jails are pre-trial or presentence, simply awaiting their day in our clogged courts. 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?

- Justin Piché, Ph.D. and Aaron Doyle, Ph.D.

Criminologists and Prison Experts | *Ottawa Citizen*, March 3, 2021



Kemptville and North Grenville's Future Vision

Many in the community believe the prison will derail the ambitious plans for Kemptville Campus, downtown revitalization, and growing regional tourism. Instead of sustainable and positive economic development, Kemptville's image and future will be forever tied to a prison and the scandals, deaths, and negative headlines that go with it. Since taking office, the Ford government has walked back many unpopular decisions; please work with us to push back on this one.

TAKE ACTION!

SPEAK OUT IN OPPOSITION

Write or call the politicians behind this plan and make your opinion known.

Premier Doug Ford
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
416-325-1941

Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones
sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
416-325-0408

MPP Steve Clark
steve.clark@pc.ola.org
416-585-7000

Please copy Mayor Nancy Peckford on your correspondence to provincial politicians:
npeckford@northgrenville.on.ca

PARTICIPATE IN OUR EMAIL ZAP

Visit www.cappkemptville.ca and click **Email your MPP** to generate letters to critical politicians.

ORDER A LAWN SIGN

Pre order your lawn sign today by emailing: cappkemptville@gmail.com

SIGN A PETITION

Search "Change.org Kemptville Prison" to add your voice to the growing chorus of opposition.

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST NEWS & EVENTS

Have your name added to our **distribution list** by emailing: cappkemptville@gmail.com

CAPP and the Jail Opposition Group (JOG) are the two local groups opposing the proposed prison. You can follow JOG on Facebook and join their email list: jail.opposition.group@gmail.com