



MYTH-BUSTING FACT SHEET

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

THE EVIDENCE AND THE FACTS

The provincial government needs to build a new prison in Eastern Ontario.	Roughly 70% of prisoners in Ontario prisons are pre-trial or pre-sentence, simply awaiting their day in court. 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?
The proposed Kemptville prison is a done deal.	A simple online search will reveal how the Ford government has backtracked on <u>many</u> other plans. This is a political decision which can be reversed or put on hold until the province releases the information it promised.
The prison will be good for the local economy.	There will be no sustainable jobs for North Grenville. The government has acknowledged this and has not provided any evidence of economic benefits. Multiple studies show that building prisons do not boost small-town economies. Just about anything would be better than a prison for the local economy.
The prison will bring “500 new jobs” to the community	The “500 new jobs” claim was incorrect. Mayor Peckford corrected her error in the June 22, 2021, council meeting. According to the province, existing corrections staff will fill most of the jobs and will commute to Kemptville.
The prison won’t cost the taxpayer anything. (Note that just building and operating the prison will cost \$500,000 over 10 years. It will cost \$25M/year to house prisoners, in a prison that would not need to be built if the province simply reformed the bail/remand system)	All prison towns are on the hook for policing costs. For example, Penetanguishene is projected to pay \$373,952 in 2022. Taxpayers will also pay for water supply and wastewater servicing and maintenance, as in Merrickville’s federally built water treatment facility. There are bound to be drug trafficking enforcement costs increasing the OPP costs for Kemptville. All this for a prison no one asked for and is not needed: the government has acknowledged that reframing the bail/remand system would eliminate the need for this prison.
The prison will not result in any additional demands on our local hospital.	The former Burritt’s Rapids prison put a burden on the KDH. Media reports have shown how prisons put burdens on local hospitals; so the prison will put increased pressure on KDH.
This new prison will actually rehabilitate rather than cage people. (Note that the province has said this for other prisons in the past, but it has not happened once the prison is built)	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.

Please refer to our full Myth-Busting Fact Sheet listed at the top of our Resources page at www.cappkemptville.ca