ONTARIO PROVINCIAL JAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER PREVIOUS LIBERAL GOVERNMENTS (2003-2018)



Prepared by:

Mackenzie Plumb, ABD – PhD Candidate and Justin Piché, PhD – Full Professor Department of Criminology University of Ottawa



<u>Date Created | Last Updated:</u> 25 November 2025 | 17 December 2025

Contact:

justin.piche@uottawa.ca

Net Capacity Change Associated with Provincial Jail Construction and Closures Under Previous Liberal Governments (2003-2018)

Total new beds built = 2,397

Total decommissioned beds = 2,160

* Net capacity change = +237 beds

New Ontario Provincial Jail Infrastructure Projects Built by the McGuinty and Wynne Governments

Toronto Intermittent Centre, Toronto (opened in 2011) = $\underline{320 \text{ beds}}$

Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto (opened in 2014) = 1,650 beds

South West Detention Centre, Windsor (opened in 2014) = 315 beds

Regional Intermittent Centre at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre (opened in 2016) = 112 beds

* Total new beds built (2003-2017) = 2,397

Provincial Jail Infrastructure Projects Announced by the Wynne Government and Cancelled by the Ford Government

Ottawa Correctional Complex, Ottawa (announced in May 2017) = 725 beds

- * Abandoned by the Ford government following a fall 2018 review (<u>see pages 366-370</u>) in favour of the Eastern Regional Strategy comprised of proposed infrastructure projects on sites located in Napanee (then represented by MPP Daryl Kramp), Brockville and Kemptville (represented by MPP Steve Clark), which are all situated in ridings held by the Progressive Conservatives (<u>announced in August 2020</u>)
- ** Also see "Overview of New Provincial Jail Infrastructure Projects in Ontario Since the Ford Government Took Office (June 2018 present)"

Provincial Jail Infrastructure Projects Announced by the Wynne Government and Reannounced by the Ford Government

Thunder Bay Correctional Complex, Thunder Bay (announced in May 2017) = 325 beds (originally) | 345 beds (revised)

Provincial Jails Closed by the McGuinty and Wynne Governments

* Total beds decommissioned (2003-2017) = 2,160

Bruce County Gaol, Walkerton (1866-2011) = 50 beds

* Owned by the county, currently has no plumbing or locks on cell doors, yet is being considered for re-opening by the Ford government <u>as of August</u> 2025

Grey County Gaol, Owen Sound (1853-2011) = 50 beds

* Currently being converted into an "entertainment and event venue"

Mimico Correctional Centre, Toronto (1936-2011) = 546 beds

* Demolished and replaced by the <u>Toronto Intermittent Centre</u>, as well as the site of the <u>Toronto South Detention Centre</u>

Don Jail, Toronto (1953-2013) = 550 beds

* Bridgepoint Active Health Care "[a]dministration offices now occupy the space of the historic Don Jail"

Toronto West Detention Centre, Toronto, (1978-2014) = 631 beds

* Demolished in 2018

Chatham County Gaol, Chatham (1849-2014) = 53 beds

* Being converted into apartments as of July 2024

Windsor Jail, Windsor (1925-2014) = $\underline{197 \text{ beds}}$

* Replaced by the South West Detention Centre and, as of 2023, was listed for sale by developers who bought the property at an auction in 2019

Brant County Gaol, Brantford (1852-2017) = 83 beds

* According to the former curator of the "Stories from the Brantford Gaol" exhibit at the Brant County Museum and Archives, the Brantford Jail – which situated downtown on one block with the courthouse – never met government requirements for jailing according to inspection records prior to and after Confederation, and was subject to a cultural heritage assessment in recent years that would prevent demolition and new construction in its place