



News Release
For Immediate Release

Government of Canada launches “Virtual Tour” of a federal penitentiary

New web-based tour allows Canadians to safely see the inside of a federal correctional facility.

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Ottawa, Ontario

Correctional Service Canada

CSC launched an online “virtual tour” of a Canadian federal correctional institution at yesterday’s Blueprint 2020 Interdepartmental Innovation Fair. This online tour, which will be available to all Canadians on the Government of Canada website, depicts various elements of maximum-, medium-, and minimum-security facilities.

The virtual tour was developed by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and will consist of 360-degree panoramic scenes of various areas of both Collins Bay Institution and Bath Institution. In order to allow online participants to better learn about federal institutions and to enhance the online experience, each section of the tour will be accompanied by narration and will feature interactive elements.

Following the closure of Kingston Penitentiary in 2013, approximately 20,000 people visited the facility as part of fundraisers for United Way and Habitat for Humanity. These tours generated significant interest from Canadians. In addition many victims groups have expressed interest in being able to see inside an institution for safety and security reasons. However, federal correctional institutions are not easily accessible to either the public or the media. With the launch of this virtual tour, all Canadians now have the unique opportunity to see inside the walls of a federal institution from any device with internet access.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of an informed public and increasing awareness about the criminal justice system. Engaging Canadians is essential to enhancing the effectiveness of the correctional system and to strengthening public confidence in the Government’s commitment to keeping Canadian streets and communities safe.

Quick Facts

- The virtual tour is based on images captured at Collins Bay Institution – a federal institution which operates maximum-, medium-, and minimum-security units – with some further elements having been photographed at Bath Institution. Both institutions are located near Kingston, Ontario.
- The new virtual tour will be available to all Canadians with device and internet access at www.canada.ca.
- Viewers can tour a minimum-, medium- and maximum-security cell and range.
- Specifically, the tour is based on the following elements of a federal institution:
 - Security perimeter;
 - Segregation Unit;
 - Entrance;
 - Visitors area;
 - Minimum, medium and maximum cell and range;
 - CORCAN workshop;
 - Program room/classroom;
 - Aboriginal cultural centre;
 - Chapel; and
 - Health care centre



Quotes

“Through our tough-on-crime legislation, it has always been the goal of our Government to make Canadians feel safer in their homes and their communities. We want Canadians to feel more confident that our criminal justice system will protect them from dangerous criminals. Indeed, the launch of this online virtual tour of federal penitentiaries offers Canadians a unique and interesting perspective of a place that the public is rarely allowed to visit. But more importantly, it also provides an opportunity to demonstrate the operations of a highly effective and world-renowned correctional system. It is my hope that this virtual tour will allow Canadians to come to share the confidence that I have in the correctional staff who work tirelessly every day to keep all of us safe.”

- The Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

“It is a priority for the Correctional Service of Canada to engage the public and to inform Canadians about the federal correctional system. The launch of this virtual tour of one of our institutions allows our organization to show Canadians an important part of the work that we do. This online tool makes use of modern technology to engage Canadians in a very unique way. Most Canadians will never step inside the perimeter fence of a federal penitentiary. This virtual tour allows Canadians to visually experience the operations of an institution from the safety and comfort of their home or classroom. We hope this new tool assists in furthering Canadians’ understanding of the important contribution correctional staff make to public safety.”

- Don Head, Commissioner, Correctional Service of Canada

Related Products

- www.csc-scc.gc.ca/csc-virtual-tour

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