



CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.



CORCAN Community Industries

Correctional Service of Canada - 2022



Correctional Service Canada
Service correctionnel Canada

Canada



What is CORCAN?

- CORCAN is a special operating agency within the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) that is responsible for the overall policy framework and program delivery related to offender employment and employability within CSC.
- Other CSC areas provide on-the-job training through employment assignments, including food services, institutional services and grounds maintenance.
- CORCAN provides correctional interventions to individuals in CSC institutions and while they are under CSC supervision in the community.
- CORCAN provides on-the-job training in 36 of 43 institutions, as well as seven CORCAN Community Industries. Skills taught cover five business lines – manufacturing, construction, textiles, services and agriculture.
- On-the-job training sites also incorporate vocational certifications and apprenticeship hours, where possible.



Employment and Employability Program

- The Offender Employment and Employability Program includes a variety of interventions and services, such as on-the-job training, vocational certifications, apprenticeships, essential skills training, transitional employment, employability and job search services.
- As a special operating agency, the sale of products and services that result from CORCAN's on-the-job training activities generate revenues that are fully reinvested in the program.
- Additional program funding is received as CORCAN's responsibility for correctional interventions covers a wider scope than activities that can be financed solely by the sale of CORCAN products and services.
- Research clearly indicates that offenders who participate in employment and employability programs are more likely to secure and maintain employment in the community. Offenders under CSC supervision that are employed in the community are three times less likely to recidivate.



Community Employment Services

- Employment Coordinators work in institutions and community locations across the country to deliver and coordinate employability interventions and employment search services.
- Other employability skills and services are delivered or coordinated by CORCAN Employment Coordinators in the institution and community.
- This includes connecting with other government and non-governmental community based programs and services for activities such as accessing training in the community, and employment search services.
- CORCAN provides additional on-the-job and vocational training, as well as transitional employment through the CORCAN Community Industries in seven locations across the country, with further expansion planned.
- CORCAN operates Community Industry models with varying infrastructure requirements. For example, some Community Industries have a fixed location where the majority of training and projects occur while others do not.



CORCAN Community Industries

- Community Industries provide an innovative approach for offenders to continue to build employment skills upon release into the community, until they secure regular employment.
- These sites operate using adaptable models that allow interventions and services to be delivered directly by CORCAN or in partnership with external organizations and clients
- Operational models include:
 - Fixed location operated by CORCAN or through a third party
 - Client locations covering various geographical areas





CORCAN Community Industries

- Program participants are engaged in transitional employment, while being provided on-the-job and vocational training through completion of client projects.
- The model provides increased community stability and decreases the number of days of unemployment while under community supervision.





Correctional Results

- CORCAN Community Industries contribute in many ways to successful reintegration, including allowing participants to:
 - ❑ Continue to build skills while seeking regular employment after release;
 - ❑ Increase stability during initial transition to the community through structured training in a real work environment;
 - ❑ Increase self-confidence and personal/emotional stability through meaningful activities in the community; and
 - ❑ Improve community functioning through participation in transitional employment and income
- CORCAN Community Industries have provided over 223,000 documented hours of on-the-job training since 2017-18. The annual on-the-job-training hours had decreased during 2020-21 and 2021-22 fiscal years due to community pandemic mitigation measures, however CORCAN expects to provide over 65,000 training hours in 2022-23 through its Community Industries.





Correctional Results

Correctional results related to employment and employability of offenders are influenced by a variety of factors, including interventions and services while incarcerated and in the community. The Community Industries portion of the CORCAN program contribute to these overall results, including:

- The monthly sampling of offenders unemployed under community supervision (of those available for employment) shows improvement across all groups of offenders since 2018. The highest rate of unemployment is typically still among Indigenous women followed by Indigenous men.
- The overall percentage of employable time spent employed, for offenders under community supervision has shown improvement, with Indigenous women offenders showing the most gains compared to five years ago.
- However, results were still lower for Indigenous men (13% less) and Indigenous women (8% less) compared to the overall men and women offender groups.

Lets watch a short video from our Edmonton Community Industry



Moving Forward

- Although the pandemic impacted results as a result of mitigation measures implemented in various communities, pre-pandemic levels of Community Industry participation have mostly returned.
- CSC has planned enhancements to the Community Industry program over the upcoming two years, including the opening of an additional site (British Columbia) and increasing collaboration with Indigenous communities, partners and clients for additional program participants to be engaged.





Moving Forward

CORCAN will continue to enhance the Community Employment Services and Community Industries over the upcoming years to address key objectives such as:

- Increasing the percentage of days offenders under community supervision who are available to work are employed.
- Reducing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous offenders who are employed while under community supervision.
- Reducing the gap between men and women offenders who are employed while under community supervision.
- Increasing on-the-job training hours through transitional employment opportunities available in the Community Industry model.
- Collaborating with other Government Departments, as well as external partners, non-governmental organizations and clients to enhance the Community Industry model and include additional opportunities for unemployed offenders while strengthening the continuum to regular employment.



Learn More

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Learn more by contacting us and/or reviewing information at:

- Employment & employability program - www.CORCAN.gc.ca
 - Products and Services – www.CORCAN.ca
- Other CSC info including Research and policy – www.csc-scc.gc.ca