

MOTION

No. 12

Mental health courts

Steve Howard gives notice that he will move, seconded by Trish Altass the following Motion:

WHEREAS Prince Edward Island saw the largest increase in incarceration rates among Canadian provinces in 2018/19;

AND WHEREAS the increase in incarceration rates on PEI is often attributed to using incarceration as a punishment for impaired driving, an action that is often linked to addictions;

AND WHEREAS people with mental illness are over-represented in the criminal justice system across Canada;

AND WHEREAS the reasons why people with mental illness may end up in the criminal justice system are numerous and include societal factors such as poverty, inadequate housing, trauma, and substance use;

AND WHEREAS mental health courts have a mandate to address the needs of people with mental health issues interacting with the justice system;

AND WHEREAS mental health diversion is one of the shared elements of designated mental health courts with an intention to effectively address this client population and divert them out of the punitive justice measures as often as possible and into a more effective path of rehabilitation;

AND WHEREAS even when dealing with serious charges or other challenges, mental health courts endeavour to provide the necessary medical and community supports for this client population, aiming to reduce recidivism and improve the wellbeing of each individual as well as society;

AND WHEREAS the Progressive Conservative caucus introduced legislation in 2018 to establish a mental health court and bemoaned government's failure to fund such an initiative;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge Government to implement a mental health court on PEI.

Signed by: Stephen Howard

Signed by: Trish Altass

Date: February 26, 2021