

Deep Roots Greater Heigh

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE

TITLE:

USE OF PRISON WORK CREWS

POLICY NO.

4.16

APPROVAL DATE:

February 11, 2003

POLICY STATEMENT:

The District will use supervised "open custody" inmate work crews provided by the BC Corrections Branch for work on maintenance and construction projects at appropriate sites, providing

- 1. Approval has first been obtained for the project or projects from the Manager of Parks and Open Space or his designate after following the defined procedures for such approval, and
- 2. The selection of inmates for such crews follows the approved Corrections Branch procedure for such selection and

The District has entered into an appropriate protocol agreement with the Corrections Branch.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of adopting this policy is to permit the use of inmate work crews to supplement the regular maintenance program and special projects work of the Parks and Leisure Services and Public Works Departments and associated volunteer organizations (Adopt a Block, ARMS, Equestrian Trails Council, etc.). The benefit to the community is both the work to be completed and the opportunity for prisoners to contribute in a positive way to community infrastructure.

DEFINITIONS:

- "Supervised" shall mean a minimum of one Corrections Officer for every twelve inmates.
- "Appropriate sites" shall include Park and greenbelt areas, vacant municipal properties and road allowances but shall not include school sites or school/park sites at times when work crews may be visible to school children.
- "Defined procedures for such approval" shall include notifying owners (those sharing a common property line with the site in question).
- "Approved Corrections Branch procedure for the selection of inmates serving on "open custody" work crews" shall mean that a formal assessment has been made by Corrections of the inmate to establish that:
- 1. He or she is at minimal risk of attempting to escape.
- 2. He or she has no recent history or pattern of violent behavior.
- 3. He or she is not a sex offender or a violent offender.
- 4. He or she has demonstrated through their cooperation and effort at the institution that they pose no operational security concerns.

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

between the

CORRECTIONS BRANCH, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL, FRASER REGIONAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE and the

CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF MAPLE RIDGE MAPLE RIDGE – PITT MEADOWS PARKS AND LEISURE SERVICES

The parties agree there are mutual benefits to be gained by working cooperatively in providing opportunities for the Fraser Regional Correctional Centre (FRCC) to work in the community providing services that will assist in reducing costs to government.

The Corrections Branch has had a history of working in the community, providing services that assist in maintaining parks, greenspace and public property as well as assisting in short term special projects.

The purpose of the Corrections work program is to provide appropriate inmates with opportunities to engage in constructive activities, promote a sense of responsibility and develop positive work habits.

The community will receive significant benefits, allowing inmates to make reparative contributions to the community. These activities will assist in offsetting cost to the local government.

To assist in the organized and systematic approach to community work, the following will apply:

The Fraser Regional Correctional Centre will:

- 1. Provide a staff liaison person to act as a primary contact and work project coordinator.
- 2. Provide a 12-man inmate crew and one staff member to complete assigned projects as assigned by the Parks and Leisure Services staff.
- 3. Make adjustments to the size of the crew and the number of staff that may be required from time to time based on project type, location or season.
- 4. Provide necessary hand tools and minor equipment required to complete the assigned projects.

Protocol Agreement - continued

- 5. Maintain responsibility for the staff and inmates while working in the community.
- 6. Ensure only appropriately classified open custody inmates are assigned to the community work gang crew. These inmates will have:
 - no recent history or pattern of violent behaviour;
 - no history of escape in the past 3 years exceptions on a case by case basis;
 - no operational security concerns;
 - no known current involvement in institutional drug activity;
 - no sex offenders.

Where there is a current court ordered "no contact order" with a local member of the community, they will be notified through the victim notification process prior to being assigned to the work crew. The inmate may be excluded from that particular work activity.

The Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows Parks and Leisure Services will:

- 1. Provide a contact person to coordinate project activities.
- 2. Liaise with the FRCC gang coordinator to ensure timely and appropriate placement of gangs.
- 3. Arrange on-site supervision and direction as required.
- 4. Not require FRCC to provide any specialised or heavy equipment for any community tasks they undertake, and will offer assistance to community groups to co-ordinate such equipment if required.

This protocol agreement may be amended or cancelled at any time with written Approval by the District of Maple Ridge and FRCC.

R.A. Riches,

District Director,

F.R.C.C.

Mike Murray/

General Manager,

Community Development Parks

And Recreation