

What Kind of a Setup is This??

April 30 2013

Edmonton's new Remand Centre only opened a few weeks ago. It houses about 1100 prisoners, many still awaiting trial. With Alberta having the highest Indigenous population in "Canada", Alberta's prisons also house a very high percentage of Indigenous people, our estimate as much as 80% of the total (and growing) prison population.

On Friday past, the AUPE Correctional Services Workers, aka prison guards, went on strike over health and safety issues at the new centre. Part of their concern, though not stated in any news reports we have yet seen, is that they must move among the prisoners unarmed. The prison, probably Canada's largest, is designed to reflect the new "open" concept where prisoners and guards mingle.

If the picture at the aupe web site is any indication, the majority of the guards are "white" males. Do you see any visibly Native person among them??

Now, with the prison under lock down and a skeleton staff including Saskatchewan Mounties RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) trying to maintain order, food is a significant problem. Prisoners not fed properly tend to riot. Do you see the setup taking shape here?

The Alberta gov claims the tab is costing them \$1.5million per day.

Keep in mind a few things about Alberta: the multi billion dollar economy generated by the oil sands. Alberta wants to let the world know they have us under control, both Indigenous and workers. Already not very popular with working class people, the Premier has so far refused to show her face during this crisis.

Deputy Premier Thomas "Little Prick" Lukaszuk is right in there provoking everyone and doing everything wrong. Or is he?? Depends on whose agenda you look at. His high handed refusal to negotiate until the workers went back to work is typical. He basically calls the prison guards liars.

Tom is MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education. Among other distinctions, Tom is a Knight of Columbus. What may be more important is his role as Ministerial Liaison to the Canadian Forces. Does Tom have his hand on the phone ready to call the army in??

Needless to say, the media is doing its part to inflame a volatile situation. With over-worked social workers, sheriffs and others now joining the strike of justice and law enforcement workers, the newscasts all report this as an "illegal" strike. How unnerving

to those tasked with law and order jobs.

Yesterday, the AB government was in court. "J.D. Rooke, the associate chief justice of the court, slapped a \$100,000 fine on the union, but said it would rise by an additional \$250,000 if the strike was not over by noon Tuesday. An additional \$500,000 would be added if the strike was not over by noon Wednesday, and would continue adding up at that rate every day until workers return to their jobs."

Will the strike be over by the end of the day, today, Tuesday? Or will it continue to ramp up the tensions until someone explodes, most likely the prisoners. That will be a good excuse to bring in the army so AB can show potential investors that they have us under control.

Stay tuned for more details.

Kittoh

FYI, Kittoh is now in Edmonton. If you know anyone in Edmonton who can provide further insight in this matter, please let them know our email addy.

Some Links

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/alberta-court-finds-striking-guards-in-contempt-union-fined-100k-1.1259822>

<http://www.industrymailout.com/Industry/View.aspx?id=443672>

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/djclimenhaga/2013/04/deputy-premier-tom-lukaszuk-wrong-man-to-solve-albertas-jail-crisis>

<http://alberta.ca/cabinet.cfm>

<http://www.aupe.ca/>

<http://local003.aupe.ca/contact-us>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2013/03/07/canada-aboriginal-prison-population-report.html>

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2013/03/09/gunter-aboriginal-populations-in-prisons-on-the-rise>

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Soaring+aboriginal+prison+population+national+disgrace/8168948/story.html>

Health, Crime, and Doing Time: Potential Impacts of the Safe Streets and Communities Act on the Health and Well-Being of Aboriginal People in B.C., a new report by provincial officer of health Dr. Perry Kendall, says the Tory administration's approach will exacerbate what is already a crisis. In B.C., aboriginal women account for 26.4 per cent of the women in custody, according to Kendall. Native girls account for 56 per cent of juvenile females in custody.

Native youth make up only about eight per cent of the provincial juvenile cohort, he added, but 142 of the 325 juveniles in custody are aboriginal.

Read more:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/life/Soaring+aboriginal+prison+population+national+disgrace/8168948/story.html#ixzz2RyXL45du>

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