



Prison Fellowship Canada

January 2022 INSIDE OUT

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD Most High.
Psalm 7:17 (NIV)

A LOOK AT THE FALL OF 2021

AN UPDATE ON BRITISH COLUMBIA, YUKON, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND NUNAVUT

In 2021, Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) began focusing resources in BC. These efforts included building awareness around PFC programming and prison ministry opportunities at ten federal, nine provincial and two youth institutions. As a result of this focus, PFC has established working relationships with every chaplain in BC, including the Regional Federal Chaplain. We have also maintained a presence in the Anderson Lodge Healing Centre halfway house.

BC volunteers from our church networks are coming forward with a heart for prison ministry. To date, we have twenty-seven volunteers in our network at various stages of training and onboarding to add to our current volunteer base. One institution in BC is actively participating in the PF By Phone program. PFC has invited the BC volunteers currently on the PF By Phone lines to apply for Federal clearance as all BC Federal institutions will participate in PF By Phone in 2022. This opportunity has the added advantage of clearance for in-prison volunteering down the road.

BC's Angel Tree Christmas season saw fourteen churches, one small group and twenty-two individual sponsors taking care of 231 children in total. One hundred seventy-five of these children were local to BC, thirty-two children were from Northern Canada, and twenty-four children were from other provinces. Eighteen out of BC's twenty-two institutions engaged with the program.

Other BC activities included setting up the infrastructure for video programming at our first BC provincial institution should volunteers continue to face COVID lockdowns. We have begun writing our newest curriculum, ***Walking the Good Path***, being sensitive to Indigenous learning styles as we share the Gospel of John.

God has indeed blessed PFC's endeavours, and we look forward to building out the foundation on each of our programs and equipping, training, and supporting the local churches as they embrace and grow prison ministry in BC.

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about prison ministry, please contact me, or visit our website for information. PFC provides step-by-step instructions on getting started, a comprehensive training program, and resources to minister to prisoners. We would love to have you on our PFC team.

May you be blessed in this year ahead.

Blessings,

Stuart Tisdale

REGIONAL MANAGER, BRITISH COLUMBIA

STUART@PRISONFELLOWSHIP.CA

TOLL-FREE 1-844-618-5867 EXT. 360





Prison Fellowship by Phone

UPDATE!

The National PF By Phone program continues to highlight the prisoners' desire for connection and spiritual care. A meaningful pattern we are seeing among the thousands of callers is how many callers call often and regularly, setting aside the time for prayer, Scripture, and an uplifting conversation. We are also grateful that chaplains from forty-five institutions across Canada have embraced the program as an extension of their care.



BRIDGECARE

UPDATE!

In September 2021, PFC launched a National Bridgecare directory on the PFC website. With the click of a button, individuals can find their way to over 1800 organizations across Canada offering practical support as they integrate back into the community. Meanwhile, the number of potential clients for the Bridgecare program continues to increase steadily.



"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16



ANGEL TREE

Christmas

UPDATE!

Maintaining the connection between an incarcerated parent and their children will continue to impact the pathway of change for many families and for years to come. One family knows this firsthand, with sibling Angel Tree children first benefitting from the program for many years and now paying it forward as sponsors in the program for other families. Notable highlights included the exponential growth of the sponsor base in Saskatchewan and Quebec, more parents participating in PEI, and the rest of the country maintaining its strong performance. In 2021, we saw a three percent overall increase from 2020.

 **3,424**
Children

 **1,363**
Prisoners

 **102**
Institutions

 **1,437**
Sponsors

“

The mom and her young son met us at the door. When we handed him his gift, we told him that his Dad asked us to deliver his gift to him. A broad smile came across his face. I could tell his mom really appreciated a gift on behalf of his Dad.

- Angel Tree Christmas Sponsor

“not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians 2:4

“

A Bridgecare client recently released from prison has experienced God's provision as he secured full-time employment. Overall, the transformation experienced in his life through the grace of God shows the reassurance of renewal that any prisoner can gain.

- PFC Staff

“

It has been beautiful to watch the transition of the caller over the past eight months. He has moved from a place of desperation to one of hope and confidence. The prayers and support of our PF By Phone volunteers have sustained him.

- PFC Staff

LOOK FOR EXCITING NEWS!

IN THE UPCOMING MONTHS

In 2021 we underwent a strategic exercise to strengthen the PFC brand. This process and the resulting work and expense were gifted to PFC by a national Brand Strategy company. We examined our position in the market, looking at the prison landscape in Canada to ensure that we are positioning ourselves and our brand in a way that remains loyal to our mission. As a result of this exercise, PFC will be launching a new look to the brand in early 2022.

STAY TUNED FOR THE NEW BRAND REVEAL SOON.

This change will serve to communicate better the work done by PFC. We remain committed to our mission to prepare and mobilize the Canadian Christian community in response to the issue of crime and the restoration of offenders based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him." Psalm 28:7

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

During the most challenging seasons, we often strongly see God's sovereignty. While 2021 began with a hope that the global and domestic upheaval would subside and that in-prison ministry would resume, soon, it was clear that things were not going to be as hoped.

Yet we see many examples of God's blessings in Scripture when circumstances seem bleak for those who trust in Him. At times we may be discouraged, but God's sovereignty will fulfill His promises for us, and His name will be glorified. This year was an example of God's providence in a challenging year. Through your partnership, we completed 2021 with all our commitments to the programs met.

Some celebrations from this Fall include the commission of the Gospel of John curriculum, ***Walking the Good Path***. This curriculum is sensitive in nature towards the First Nation community. This is particularly tremendous because research has shown that the Indigenous population is significantly overrepresented in Canadian prisons and jails. Current statistics show as high as forty percent of our institutional system is Indigenous. Indigenous women now represent fifty percent of the female prison population in Canada. Many

are keen to know and follow Jesus. May God continue to work through this curriculum and the hearts of all Indigenous Canadians in our care.

December finished strong, with 3,424 children served through the Angel Tree Christmas program. Praise God for all the work He has done. Praise God for allowing us to begin the process of Federal Prison clearance for our volunteers. This clearance will enable volunteers to serve on PF By Phone and in-prison for the next ten years. This clearance prepares volunteers for in-prison ministry as soon as institutions are open again.

While the past few months may have been challenging for us all, we praise God for His providence and grace. We also thank you for your faithful partnership and prayers throughout the year. May you experience God's love and blessings this year and always.



Stacey Campbell

President & CEO
Prison Fellowship Canada

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