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CANADA'S NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

(Prepared by the Information Service, National Parole Board, Ottawa.)

The first parole legislation in Canada was the Ticket of Leave Act, passed by Parliament in 1898. It was replaced by the Parole Act in 1959. Initially, parole was handled by the Dominion Parole Officer in the Department of Justice and then by the Remission Service in the same Department.

The National Parole Board was established January 1, 1959, and the Parole Act came into force on February 15 of that year. Until 1967, when it became an agency in the newly-formed Department of the Solicitor General, the Board was an independent agency in the Justice Department.

The National Parole Board grants paroles to inmates serving sentences under federal law in provincial or federal institutions. This parole differs from probation, which is a function of the courts. The Board has the exclusive jurisdiction and absolute discretion to grant, refuse, or revoke parole for any adult inmate.

Parole is a conditional release for the remainder of an inmate's sentence, when he, or she, is eligible and considered ready; from the beginning of parole to the last day of the sentence, the paroled person is under supervision.

Under the Parole Act, the Board may grant parole when it considers that:

- (a) the maximum benefit has been gained from imprisonment;
- (b) the reform and rehabilitation of the inmate will be aided by parole;
- (c) the release would not mean an undue risk to society.

Parole does not mean that sentence is shortened, but it does mean that if an inmate is granted parole he has to accept certain conditions.

Although eligibility for parole is based on the type and length of sentence, the Board is not a reviewing authority and is not concerned with the propriety of the conviction or the length of the

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