Why tough-on-bail narratives are failing our communities

The current bail system is anything but lenient. Women are already routinely denied bail for unjust reasons including:

- homelessness
- racist discrimination
- experiencing domestic violence
- untreated mental health and addictions

Keeping more people locked up while they wait for their trial worsens overcrowding and prison conditions. Worse conditions means worse post-release outcomes for individuals and their communities.

DENYING BAIL DOESN'T KEEP US SAFE

Ending violence requires addressing the social and economic root causes that enable it. **Material solutions are less flashy - but they work.** Access to housing, income, employment, and healthcare are proven solutions to reducing crime - and community bail supervision helps people access all of those supports.

EFSM's bail supervision program reminds us that safety is found in care, connection, and community.

What program residents and graduates are sharing

"This program was exactly what I needed when I wanted to change"
Program resident

"Coming into this program helped me heal and get my life back"
Program resident

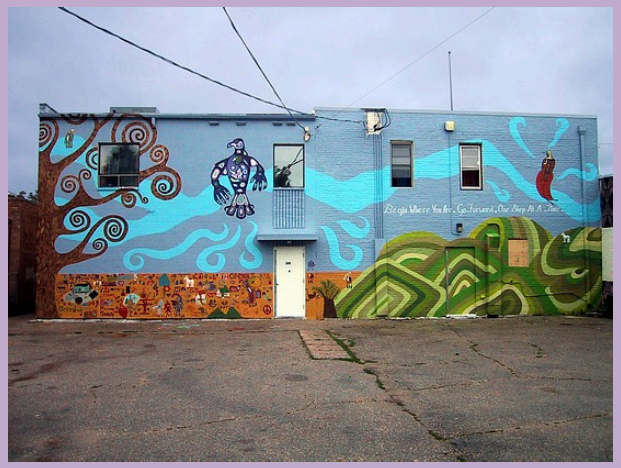
"After doing this program, you have support for life"
Program graduate

Contact us

544 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 2M9
Fax: 204-589-7338
Phone: 204-589-7335 ext. 206
Toll-Free: 1-800-582-565
www.efsmanitoba.org

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba Inc.

BAIL VERIFICATION & SUPERVISION PROGRAM



Community bail supervision offers a humane and effective path toward justice that heals instead of harms

EFSM'S BAIL SUPERVISION AND VERIFICATION PROGRAM CHANGES LIVES FOR ONLY $160/DAY

RESIDENTS ACCESS:

CULTURAL SUPPORTS
ADDICTION SUPPORT
SAFE HOUSING
VOLUNTEERING
EMPLOYMENT
BUILDS RELATIONSHIPS

Keeping a woman in provincial custody is estimated to cost $514/day

Spending on prisons leads to more spending to repair the harm people experience while detained

Community bail supervision is a safe and effective alternative to custodial detention

Here's why:

1. REDUCES THE NUMBER OF WOMEN HELD IN PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

Women held in pre-trial detention are incarcerated despite being legally innocent. **67% of incarcerated women in Manitoba have not yet been sentenced.**

2. SUPPORTS THE MMIWG2S CALLS TO JUSTICE 5.11 & 5.13-5.16 AND THE TRC CALLS TO ACTION 30 & 31

These calls are directed at all levels of governments to provide community-based alternatives to incarceration for Indigenous people to reduce the number of Indigenous women in custody. The overrepresentation of Indigenous people in jail is a result of colonialism and taking action to end the incarceration of Indigenous women is necessary to end and redress the genocide against Indigenous people.

3. INCREASES CHANCES OF A FAIR TRIAL

When people are denied bail, they are more likely to make a false guilty plea, increasing the number of wrongfully convicted women. Courts are also more likely to presume guilt if a person is denied bail, which compounds institutionalized discrimination.

4. REDUCES RECIDIVISM

Individuals granted bail are more likely to receive community sentences, which in turn reduce the likelihood of reconviction. By keeping people connected to their loved ones and communities, community bail supervision helps end cycles of criminalization.

When community supervision isn't available, women are unjustly denied bail and kept in custody.

Time in custody worsens physical and mental health, damages family relationships, and leads to poorer outcomes after release.