



Incarceration versus Recreation Participation

In Canada, it costs on average **\$95,826.37** to imprison a young person for one year. If that money was made available to recreation practitioners, it could be used to offer that young person an opportunity to:

- swim twice a week for 30 weeks;
- skate once a week for 15 weeks;
- play in a basketball league once a week for 26 weeks;
- play badminton once a week for 30 weeks;
- golf a 9 hole golf course 20 times;
- participate in fencing or karate for a season;
- take an art course for 30 weeks;
- act in one theater production;
- teach computer skills;
- take a boating course;
- acquire leadership skills;
- take a first aid course; and,
- participate in a drop in program 4 hours a week for 40 weeks.

To participate in all these activities, we could also provide the young person with:

- running shoes
- swimsuit
- skates
- a basketball
- a badminton racquet
- an art kit (including paints, paint brushes, pencil crayons and pastels)
- a set of golf clubs

Finally, we could provide the young person with transportation to and from the recreation activities by purchasing a bus pass, bicycle and bicycle helmet.

We would then return to you approximately \$93,902.12 and a much happier and healthier individual!

Adapted from "McGovern, Celeste. "The \$100,000 Kids: why is it so expensive to imprison young offenders" Alberta Report, Aug/98.