

**MEDIA BACKGROUNDER**

# **Increasing Ontario's Adult Correctional Capacity**



**PROTECT  
ONTARIO**

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

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**Ontario** 

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# Overview: Ontario's Adult Correctional System

Ontario operates and oversees 25 adult correctional institutions, along with 115 probation and parole offices across the province. The system is responsible for adult offenders (18+) who are:

- In custody, including those:
  - Serving sentences of less than two years
  - Awaiting trial or sentencing
  - Awaiting transfer to federal custody to serve sentences of over two years
- Under supervision in the community, including those serving:
  - Probation terms of up to three years
  - Provincial parole
  - Conditional sentences of up to two years

As of April 2026, there are consistently over 11,000 inmates housed each day in Ontario's provincial adult correctional facilities and over 45,000 offenders are supervised in the community.

At the start of this year, there was a total of 10,585 beds. The government's plan to increase capacity, including previously announced projects, will add up to nearly 2,568 additional beds over the next decade, representing an increase in capacity of up to 24 per cent.

This would take the total number of beds up to nearly 13,153.

# Why Action is Required Now

The province is ensuring that Ontario's correctional system has adequate capacity into the future, particularly as the province strengthens the bail system.

This plan includes:

- Increasing correctional capacity
- Modernizing aging infrastructure
- Supporting frontline staff with increased hiring, supports and resources
- Ensuring dangerous and repeat offenders remain securely in custody

# Investments in Ontario's Correctional Capacity

## Infrastructure

Investing over **\$3 billion** to expand adult correctional capacity and ensure the system can keep pace with tougher bail and sentencing laws. These investments include new builds and major expansions, with projects currently underway across the province from planning and design to active construction.



## Staffing

As part of the 2026 Budget, the government is hiring more than **700 new correctional staff**, including correctional officers, nurses and critical support workers, to support the plan for increased capacity. **Since June 2018, Ontario has hired over 4,000** correctional officers, deploying them to institutions across the province.



## Programming

Investments have been made in **inmate employment readiness programs** to support successful reintegration, as well as in **mentorship services** for people under supervision in the community, such as North Star and "Who I Was, Who I Am".



## Safety

Strengthening safety protocols in adult correctional facilities by **upgrading body scanners and increasing the number of canine searches**.



# Ontario's Existing Correctional Institutions

## Northern

- 1 Kenora Jail ●
- 2 Fort Frances Jail ■
- 3 Thunder Bay Correctional Centre ●
- 4 Thunder Bay Jail ●
- 5 Monteith Correctional Complex ●
- 6 Algoma Treatment and Remand Centre ●
- 7 Sudbury Jail ●
- 8 North Bay Jail ●

## Eastern

- 1 Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre ▲
- 2 St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre ■
- 3 Brockville Jail ■
- 4 Quinte Detention Centre ●
- 5 Central East Correctional Centre ★

## Toronto

- 1 Toronto East Detention Centre ▲
- 2 Toronto South Detention Centre ★

## Western

- 1 Central North Correctional Centre ★
- 2 Stratford Jail ■
- 3 Sarnia Jail ■
- 4 Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre ▲
- 5 South West Detention Centre ●

## Central

- 1 Ontario Correctional Institute ●
- 2 Maplehurst Correctional Complex ★
- 3 Vanier Centre for Women ●
- 4 Niagara Detention Centre ●
- 5 Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre ▲

### Facility Size Legend

- Small (1-100)
- Medium (101-399)
- ▲ Large (400-999)
- ★ Mega (1000+)

\*current as of May 2026  
and does not reflect future  
expansions



# Methods to Increase Capacity

## Bed Optimization

Bed optimization is the process of efficiently managing and allocating beds to increase capacity, where feasible, in existing correctional facilities.

The government is expanding bed capacity by installing permanent beds, along with required ancillary furniture, fixtures and equipment.

This work is done with consideration of staffing levels and building capacity to maintain the safety of inmates and correctional staff.

## Innovative Rapid Builds

**Modular Build Facilities (MBFs)** are constructed using off-site prefabricated modular components, combined with on-site built foundations to add bed capacity and common areas.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is working with Infrastructure Ontario and Bird Construction to plan for the increase in scope of the Niagara, Milton and Sudbury MBFs by adding 150 additional beds. The new beds would be achieved by making design changes that enabled doubling the occupancy of each cell.

Two MBFs are currently in operation in Kenora and Thunder Bay.

**Tensile Structures** are a cost-effective approach to building capacity, using highly-durable advanced tensioned fabric structures designed to meet security and operational standards to address capacity pressures. Building these rapidly deployable structures on existing land reduces time and costs compared to traditional builds.

A tensile structure has successfully been in use at the Elgin Middlesex Detention Centre since 2016.

# A Three-Part Approach to Address Capacity – Part 1

The government has established an approach to address capacity by:

1. Optimizing beds at existing institutions – up to 255 new beds
2. Adjusting and expanding the existing capital plan – up to 1,703 new beds
3. Implementing Rapid Inmate Housing Structures – up to 610 new beds

Additional details will be made available as the government continues to explore opportunities to address future needs under this approach.

## Part 1: Optimizing

- Building on the prior addition of 60 permanent beds since 2024, the ministry is targeting the safe addition of up to **255 permanent beds** across 12 institutions by November 2026 through its bed optimization project. Staffing needs are considered against all additions.
- The ministry is assessing further opportunities to safely add further permanent bed capacity on a rolling basis, reducing the use of temporary beds.
- The ministry is also initiating critical building repairs needed to support the continued operation of the existing Thunder Bay Correctional Centre and Thunder Bay Jail to maximize bed capacity in the Northern Region.

# A Three-Part Approach to Address Capacity – Part 2

## Part 2: Adjusting and Expanding

- The government is revising the design and scope of projects already in the plan to bring up to **1,703 beds** online. This includes:
  - **Thunder Bay Correctional Complex** – planning for an additional 117 beds over the original 345 beds for a total of **462 beds**.
  - **Quinte Detention Centre** – initiated design changes to add 25 more beds, bringing the expansion total to **91 beds**.
  - **Brockville Correctional Complex** – initiated design changes to add 20 more beds, bringing the total size to **270 beds**.
  - **Modular Build Facility Expansions** – adding **300 additional beds** at the following modular build facility projects by converting single cells to double capacity:
    - **Sudbury Modular Build Facility** – planning for an additional 50 beds, to double capacity to 100 beds.
    - **Milton Modular Build Facility** – planning for an additional 50 beds, to double capacity to 100 beds.
    - **Niagara Modular Build Facility** – planning for an additional 50 beds, to double capacity to 100 beds.
- The government is also:
  - Repurposing the former intermittent centre at Toronto South Detention Centre – adding **320 beds**.
  - Expanding the St Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre – adding **25 beds**.

## Part 2: Adjusting and Expanding

Facility	Area	New Beds	Additional Capacity	Total Net New Beds	Substantial Completion Date	Additional Details
<b>Thunder Bay Correctional Complex</b>	Thunder Bay	345	+117	462	November 2026	Expansion of current new build project.
<b>Former Toronto Intermittent Centre</b>	Toronto	320	0	320	December 2026	Project announced in 2024.
<b>Niagara Detention Centre</b>	Thorold	50	+50	100	June 2028	Expansion of current modular build project.
<b>Vanier Centre for Women</b>	Milton	50	+50	100	June 2028	Expansion of current modular build project.
<b>Cecil Facer</b>	Sudbury	50	+50	100	March 2028	Expansion of current modular build project. To be converted to an adult facility in 2028.
<b>Quinte Detention Centre</b>	Napanee	66	+25	91	December 2029	Expansion of current project.
<b>Brockville Correctional Complex</b>	Brockville	250	+20	270	2030+	Expansion of current new build project; to be delivered with St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre project.
<b>St. Lawrence Valley Correctional and Treatment Centre</b>	Brockville	25	0	25	2030+	Expansion of current project, to be delivered with Brockville Correctional Complex project.
<b>Eastern Ontario Correctional Complex</b>	Kemptville	235	0	235	2030+	Project announced in 2020.
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,703</b>		

# A Three-Part Approach to Address Capacity – Part 3

## Part 3: Rapid Inmate Housing Structures

- The government is moving forward with its plan to add up to **610 beds** in the near term through rapid builds at **five** institutions:
  - Central East Correctional Centre – 122 beds
  - Central North Correctional Centre – 122 beds
  - Other institutions – up to 366 beds

Facility	Area	Existing Beds	Confirmed New Beds	Total Beds	Substantial Completion Date	Additional Details
Central East Correctional Centre	Lindsay	1,250	+122	1,372	December 2026	Rapidly deployable tensile structure.
Central North Correctional Centre	Penetanguishene	1,246	+122	1,368	March 2027	Rapidly deployable tensile structure.
Other institutions	To be confirmed	-	+366	-	December 2027	Rapidly deployable tensile structure.
<b>Total</b>			<b>610</b>			

## Looking Ahead

The Ontario government is investing over \$3 billion to build and expand adult correctional facilities across the province.

The government is also renovating existing facilities in Thunder Bay to keep 351 beds in operation.

These investments will ensure that dangerous criminals are kept behind bars and off our streets, so that no offenders are ever let out due to a lack of capacity. These investments will also provide correctional staff with the working space and resources to do their jobs efficiently and safely.

This plan, along with prior ministry efforts to increase correctional capacity, will add up to 2,568 beds over the next decade, representing an up to 24 per cent increase in capacity. This would take the total number of beds up to 13,153.

The ministry assesses institutional capacity every day. While this plan addresses capacity constraints today, the Ontario government will continue to assess needs as they evolve and will continue exploring opportunities to further increase capacity in the future.