Global Classroom
October 10th 2017

Topic: Overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the Canadian Criminal Justice System
Course: Canadian Criminal Justice System – PFP101
Students: Protection, Security and Investigations (PSI), Durham College

Participants:

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Lesson Plan/Discussion Points

1. Indigenous people are overrepresented in Canada's criminal justice system as both victims and offenders.
2. History – Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the impact on the criminal justice system.
3. Indigenous adults and youth overrepresented in custody. In 2014/2015, Indigenous adults accounted for 26% of provincial/territorial custody admissions and 25% of the in -custody federal offender population. The proportion of Indigenous adults in custody was about 9 times higher than their representation in the adult population (3%). Indigenous adults were overrepresented in provincial/territorial custody in most jurisdictions, especially British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario.
4. Aboriginal people are so vastly over-represented in Canada's federal prison system that current policies are clearly failing them, according to the Office of the Correctional Investigator, Howard Sapers.
5. The trail of many social policies which have marginalized one group of our population "defines systemic discrimination.” "In other words, while aboriginal people in Canada comprise just four per cent of the population, in federal prisons nearly one in four is Métis, Inuit, or First Nations."
6. Reconciliation – what does it mean? Looking towards the future.

Sources: Statistics Canada
Office of the Correctional Investigator
Correctional Services Canada