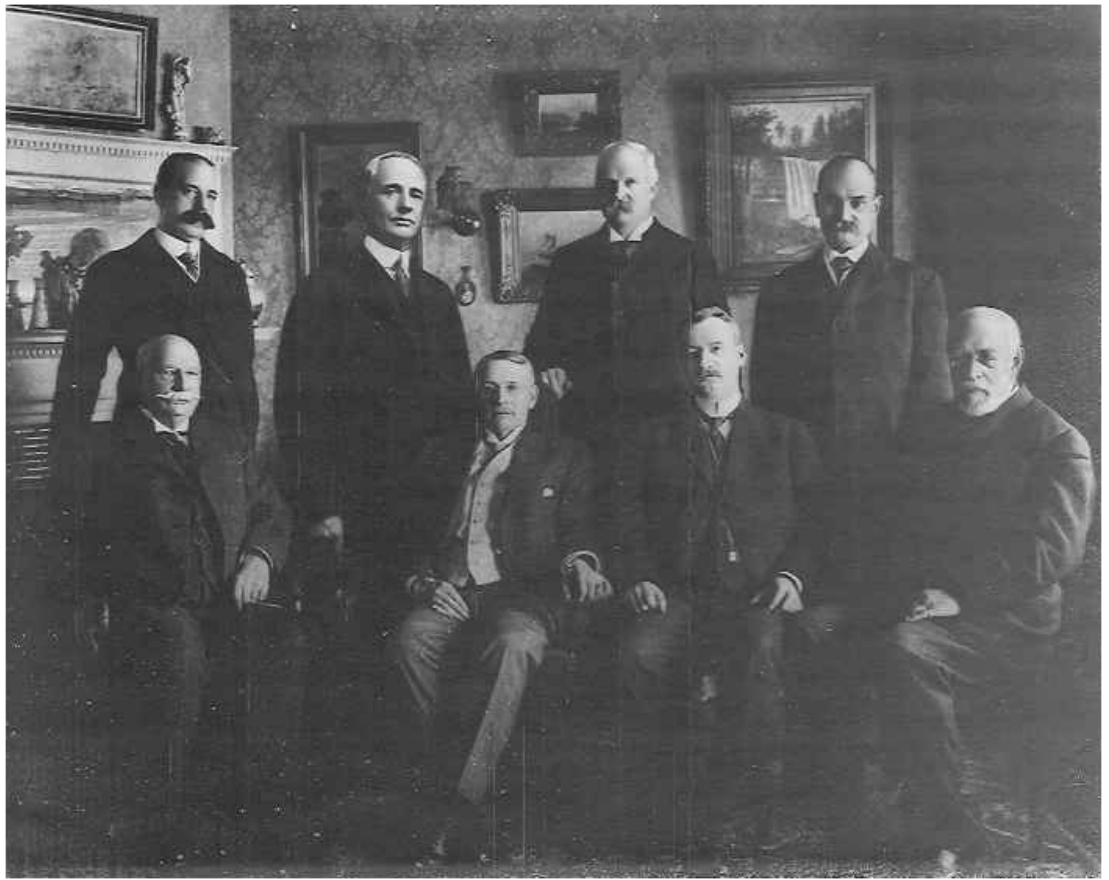




Ontario Parole Board

2010-2011 Annual Report

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The Honourable David C. Onley
The Lieutenant Governor
of the Province of Ontario

May it please Your Honour,

It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report of the
Ontario Parole Board for the fiscal year 2010-2011.

I trust you and the members of the Legislative Assembly will
find the report informative.

Respectfully submitted,



Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Community Safety and
Correctional Services



The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Community Safety and
Correctional Services

Minister,

It is my privilege to forward the Annual Report of the Ontario
Parole Board for fiscal year 2010-11 in accordance with Section
40 of the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act*.

Yours truly,



Arnold Galet
Chair
Ontario Parole Board



I am extremely pleased and proud to be delivering this message in the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Ontario Parole Board as the Board celebrated a significant milestone, its 100th anniversary.

On November 24th, 1910, as a tentative experiment, a Parole Commission was appointed by an Order-In-Council of the Province of Ontario.

The eight members, who grace the cover of this report, acted in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Justice of Canada in making recommendations for pardons or tickets of leave.

In its early history, the concept of parole was known as ticket of leave and conditional liberation. These had several of the elements of parole, such as release from confinement after part of the sentence was served and release being conditional on good behaviour.

Over time, parole became an integral part of the total correctional process, providing a method of selectively releasing offenders from an institution under supervision in the community, whereby the community is afforded continuing protection while the offender is making his/her contribution to society.

One hundred years later, the Board continues to provide the broadest opportunity for offender rehabilitation while maintaining our priority of community safety.

Refinements in information requirements, board member training and procedures governing parole and temporary absence hearings continue to reflect current knowledge on the ability to assess, predict and effectively manage risk.

Co-operation, hard work and a clear sense of what we wanted to achieve have helped us to deliver an effective and efficient conditional release system.

For their continued commitment to parole and temporary absence I extend my sincere appreciation to staff, board members and our colleagues in Corrections.

Front Cover- Ontario Parole Commission 1910

Left to Right: Back Row:

Noel Marshall, Hon D.G. McIntyre, Hamilton Cassels, Dr. W.T. Gilmour (Secretary)

Front Row: Col. A.H. McDonald (Vice Chairman), Mr. Justice Teetzel (Chairman), T.H. Preston, Daniel Miller

Chair

Arnold Galet
(October 2008 to October 2013)

Full-time Members (Vice Chairs)

Sergio Della Fortuna
(November 2010-November 2012)

Terry Franklin
(February 2003-February 2012)

John McCullough
(February 2003-February 2012)

Community Part-time Members

Carol Baker (February 2007-February 2012)

Jeremy Cheung (February 2007-February 2012)

Michael Clarke (June 2001-February 2012)

Roger Clarke (February 2003-February 2013)

Vincent Conville (February 2007- February 2012)

Brad Finan (February 2007-February 2012)

David Freedman (February 2007-February 2012)

Maureen Gauci (February 2009-February 2014)

Michelle Labelle (February 2011-February 2013)

Santina Moccio (June 2007- June 2012)

Raymond Ramdayal (February 2007-February 2012)

Priscilla Reeve (February 2007-February 2012)

Doug Reynolds (April 2007-April 2012)

Rick Riddell (April 2007-April 2012)

Henry Rowsell (February 2003-February 2012)

Ian Russell (February 2003-February 2012)

Peter Sant (February 2007-February 2012)

Neil Sturgeon (June 2001-February 2012)

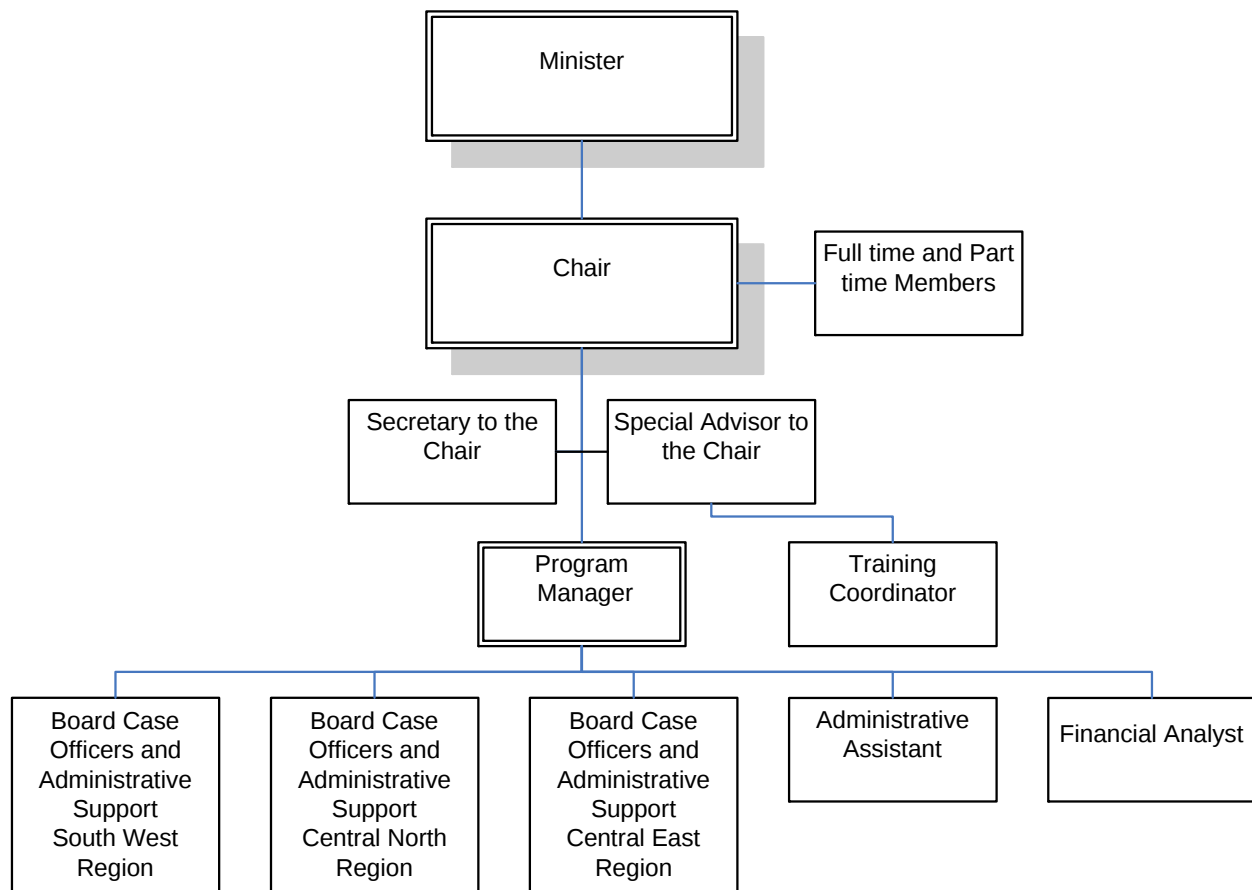
Lee-Ann Turner (February 2007-February 2012)

Sheila Ward (May 2007-May 2012)

Edward (Ted) Williams (May 2007-May 2012)

Pauline Wong (February 2007-February 2012)

As of March 31, 2011



As of March 31, 2011

The Board conducts work through a network of regional offices (Milton, Midland and Lindsay) and the Corporate Office in Toronto.

The Corporate Office is responsible for a range of activities related to conditional release, including audits, review decisions, policy development and Board member training. As well, Corporate Office provides overall administration, leadership and support for planning, resource management, communication and IT services.

At the end of 2010/11, the Board had three full time and 22 part time members and 15 staff members supporting the Board members in their decision-making responsibilities.

Regional staff schedule offender hearings, ensure that all information for decision-making is available, provide support and information to victims and make arrangements for victims, observers and/or assistants to attend hearings.

Mandate

The Board is an administrative tribunal responsible for the release of offenders from incarceration other than by normal expiration of sentence. The Board is the sole authority in Ontario for the parole release of adult offenders serving sentences within provincial institutions. The Board is also authorized under legislation to consider unescorted temporary absences of 72 hours or longer, for the same adult population. The Board's guiding principle in decision-making is the protection of society. In the event of a parole or temporary absence grant decision, the Board sets the conditions for release. Parole or temporary absence may be revoked for non-compliance with these conditions.

The vision of the Ontario Parole Board is a safer Ontario and improved public confidence in conditional release.

Vision

The vision of the Board reflects the commitment to being a public- centered and quality service organization. The primary concern of the Board continues to be the safety of Ontario citizens.

Mission Statement

As part of the Canadian criminal justice system, the Board has legislated authority to grant supervised conditional release of adult offenders sentenced to Ontario provincial correctional institutions.

The Board which has representatives from the community, welcomes input from all sources, including victims of crime in making independent, fair and objective decisions. It pursues its primary goal of protecting the public by releasing only those offenders considered to be a manageable risk within the community.

Parole is an opportunity for an offender to serve the remainder of his/her sentence in the community under certain conditions set out by the Board. The Ontario Parole Board is authorized by the federal *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* and the Ontario *Ministry of Correctional Services Act* and regulations to consider for parole, adult offenders who are serving sentences in provincial institutions.

By law, an offender is eligible for parole after serving one-third of his/her sentence. In Ontario, the law provides that offenders sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 180 days or more are automatically scheduled to be seen by the Board once they have reached their parole eligibility date, unless they decide to waive their right to a hearing.

The Board makes an assessment, based on a number of factors:

- risk factors and needs at the time of incarceration: including case-specific factors such as details of the offences, criminal history, substance abuse and mental health issues;
- an offender's institutional behaviour and the benefit of interventions which may have reduced the risk posed by the offender, such as the benefit from treatment and programs while incarcerated and the offender's understanding of the offence and his/her criminal behaviour; and
- release plans, particularly in relation to community support, availability of programs and counselling, supervision controls and whether additional conditions are required to manage risk in the community.

When making a decision to release an offender on parole, the law requires the Board be satisfied that:

- The offender will not be a risk to society by committing another crime before the end of his/her sentence or by violating the conditions of release; and
- Parole will help the offender become a law-abiding citizen.

Hearings are conducted by a two-person quorum and take place in various correctional institutions across the province. The quorum members review offender files containing documentation from justice partners (corrections, courts and police), victims, the offender's family and other supporters they may have.

A standardized 'risk assessment' instrument is administered by correctional staff to all parole candidates. For certain higher risk offenders, more specialized risk assessments may be administered. The results of the risk assessment and all other relevant information are shared with Board members who use this information in their decision-making process.

An important part of the risk assessment process for all offenders is the interview. The interview is an opportunity for trained board members to meet face-to-face with the offender and ask questions of direct relevance to the risk assessment process.

Assistants may be present at hearings to provide language interpretation, legal advice or general assistance to the offender. Observers and victims may also attend.

During the hearing, the quorum of Board members and the offender will discuss a number of issues, such as:

- The offender's understanding about his/her offending;
- What the offender has done to address factors that are associated with offending; and
- How the offender's release plan will allow him/her to be safely and successfully returned to the community.

If the Board is satisfied that the offender has a release plan which adequately addresses the risk he/she poses to the community, then the Board may grant parole. The Board will set general and specific conditions that relate directly to the offender's situation. If parole is not granted, the quorum may decide to deny parole or defer the decision to a later date. The Board must provide written reasons supporting its decision, which are shared with the offender.

An offender who is not satisfied with the Board's decision may request a review of the decision by writing to the Chair. The Chair or designate will either uphold the decision or order a new hearing if new facts emerge or the original hearing failed to provide a fair or legally sound process or outcome.

Release plans for all parole candidates must address the remainder of the sentence up to final warrant expiry date. Parolees are supervised by the Ministry's probation and parole officers (PPOs) in local probation and parole offices. The Board participates in and monitors that supervision through regular contact with the supervising probation and parole office. If there is a violation of the terms and conditions of the parole release, the Board may revoke or terminate parole.

Temporary Absence

Under legislation, which governs parole and temporary absence, every offender is eligible to request of the Board to be lawfully absent from an institution during the offender's term of imprisonment under the authority of a temporary absence permit. In Ontario, the Board shares this authority with institutional superintendents, who retain responsibility for all temporary absences that are

escorted or under 72 hours in duration when unescorted. The Board has responsibility for all unescorted temporary absences of 72 hours and longer.

Temporary absences allow the offender to be away from the institution for a specific purpose for short periods of time (up to 60 days), which may be renewed. Each temporary absence is regulated by a set of terms and conditions with which the offender must comply. The Board may impose any condition they consider appropriate and relevant to the risk and needs of the individual offender. The protection of the public remains the Board's paramount consideration.

As with parole, the law requires that the Board render the least restrictive decision that is consistent with the protection of society and the promotion of the offender's rehabilitation and reintegration into the community.

An offender may request an absence from the institution, with or without escort, for a defined period. An offender may be granted a temporary absence to prepare for a successful return to the community by participating in drug/alcohol treatment or other programs, upgrading education or attending work. All are key factors in reducing an offender's risk to re-offend and increase his or her chances for success. A temporary absence may also be granted for medical or humanitarian reasons.

1910

The first paroling authority in Ontario was established as the Ontario Parole Commission and acted in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Justice for Canada, by recommending the release of certain inmates on a ticket of leave.

1916

The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario authorized the appointment of a Board of Parole which included a chairman, secretary and parole commissioner. A year later the *Ontario Parole Act* was passed, formally legislating the responsibility of the Board.

1959

With the passage of the federal *Parole Act*, the Board could authorize release of offenders as opposed to simply making recommendations.

1978

The federal *Parole Act* is amended, allowing the provinces to establish their own boards. The Ontario Board gained full authority for parole decisions for inmates serving sentences of up to two years less a day.

1981

The first joint meeting of the Canadian Association of Paroling Authorities took place with representatives from Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, the Correctional Services of Canada and the National Parole Board. Future meetings were held at regular intervals and played an important role, which continues today, in providing the opportunity for parole boards to benefit through shared concerns and to coordinate efforts on issues of mutual interest.

1988

The first mission statement of the Board was developed outlining a set of values and principles designed to guide operations, policies and decision making of the Board.

1992

The *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* (CCRA) was proclaimed replacing the federal *Parole Act*. It provided a statement of purpose as well as two new parole criteria that apply to all parole boards operating in Canada;

- that the offender will not, by reoffending, present an undue risk to society before the expiration according to law of the sentence the offender is serving; and
- the release of the offender will contribute to the protection of society by facilitating the reintegration of the offender into society as a law-abiding citizen.

The Act reinforced the Canada-wide execution of parole suspension warrants and also set the stage for Boards to review the Transfer of Jurisdiction Agreement.

1996

The Transfer of Parole Jurisdiction Agreement among the Governments of Canada, Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec was signed. The agreement allows the transfer of parole jurisdiction from one board to another when an offender moves from one jurisdiction to another.

1997

While the Board had been subject to numerous reviews over the previous four years, a Task Force Report on Agencies, Boards and Commissions recommended that the Ontario Government retain the Board as a stand alone agency. The report ended several years of review during which the Board proved to be an efficient and cost effective organization.

1998

Through amendments to the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act*, victims were allowed to request and receive certain information about the inmate, including the date of the parole hearing, reasons for the decision and any special conditions attached to a parole grant decision.

2001

Through amendments to the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act*, the Board was renamed the Ontario Parole and Earned Release Board and given an expanded mandate, including the authority to make decisions about unescorted temporary absences whose duration is 72 hours or longer.

2003

The Board underwent a major restructuring and decommissioned the regional operations by closing four offices. Three service sectors were created that aligned with the re-distribution of the offender population resulting from the implementation of the Ministry's Infrastructure Renewal Project. The restructuring placed full time members and Board Case Officers in or near the most populated institutions, Maplehurst Correctional Complex, Central East and Central North Correctional Centres.

In April 2003, the Victim Empowerment Act that amended the *Ministry of Correctional Services Act* came into force, allowing victims to attend parole hearings and if they wished, to make a submission to the Board at the hearing on specific areas of concern as set out in the regulation. In October 2003, observers, including media were allowed access to attend parole hearings. The process increases the transparency of the Board's decision-making, the

accountability of the Board and contributes to the public's understanding of the parole process.

2007

The Board implemented a pilot project to use videoconferencing technology to conduct selected hearings. The technology allows for simultaneous video and oral communication between the offender and Board members by means of closed circuit television. The pilot began with institutions in the North as travel, weather and distance were significant factors in scheduling in-person hearings. The use of video hearings is now part of regular business processes of the Board and is available in many institutions.

2008

The first Aboriginal Circle Hearing took place at Thunder Bay Correctional Centre on December 8, 2008 as part of a pilot program developed by the Board. The other pilot site was Sudbury Jail. An Aboriginal Circle Hearing is a format that is available as an option to First Nation, Inuit and Métis offenders that provides offenders with access to culturally sensitive hearings. It creates a non-confrontational environment that welcomes the presence of an Elder to provide assistance to the members in understanding Aboriginal cultures, experiences and traditions.

The Board's Service Sector offices were renamed Regional Offices.

2009

On December 15, 2009, as part of the *Good Government Act*, the Board was renamed the Ontario Parole Board. The new name better reflected the primary work of the Board in making decisions on parole and temporary absence applications.

The Board refocused efforts on training and professional development of members to reflect current knowledge and practices in the area of criminal risk assessment. Training continues to be a priority in the preparation of Board members to provide sound quasi-judicial independent decisions.

Quality decision-making for conditional release is critical and a major focus of the Board. The work of the Board must balance the paramount need for public safety against the goal of the successful reintegration of offenders back into their communities. The Board strives to maintain public safety and confidence through the outcomes of its decisions to release offenders on parole/temporary absence. In considering performance, the Board uses measures that address the success or failure of offenders in the community. It should be noted that for the Board, performance results are impacted by other factors. These include the programming efforts and supervision provided by the ministry as well as offender's efforts to reintegrate into the community and the receptivity of the community itself.

Year at a Glance

Parole

Cases Considered	976
Parole Granted	286
Parole Denied	690
Parole Completed Successfully	258
Parole Revoked	28
Parole Terminated	0
Number of hearings with observers	5
Number of hearings with assistants	260
Number of hearings with victims in attendance	24
Number of decisions with	108
Electronic Supervision as a condition of release	

Temporary Absence

Cases Considered	256
Temporary Absence Granted	123
Temporary Absence Denied	133
Temporary Absence Completed Successfully	112
Temporary Absence Cancelled	11
Number of hearings with assistants	20
Number of decisions with	32
Electronic Supervision as a condition of release	

OPB By the Numbers

1,232

The total number of parole and temporary absence hearings.
Down 6.7% from 2009/10.

976

The number of parole applications that were considered by the Board at a hearing.
Down 7.7% from 2009/10.

29.3%

The percentage of cases where parole was granted.
Down 3.1% from 2009/10.

90.2%

The percentage of parolees who successfully completed parole.
Up 3.9% from 2009/10.

9.8%

The percentage of parolees who had their parole revoked.
Down 3.4% from 2009/10

96.9%

The percentage of parolees who remained free of new criminal charges while on parole release.

256

The number of temporary absence applications that were considered by the Board at a hearing.
Down 6.4% from 2009/10.

48%

The percentage of cases where temporary absence was granted.
Down 10.9% from 2009/10

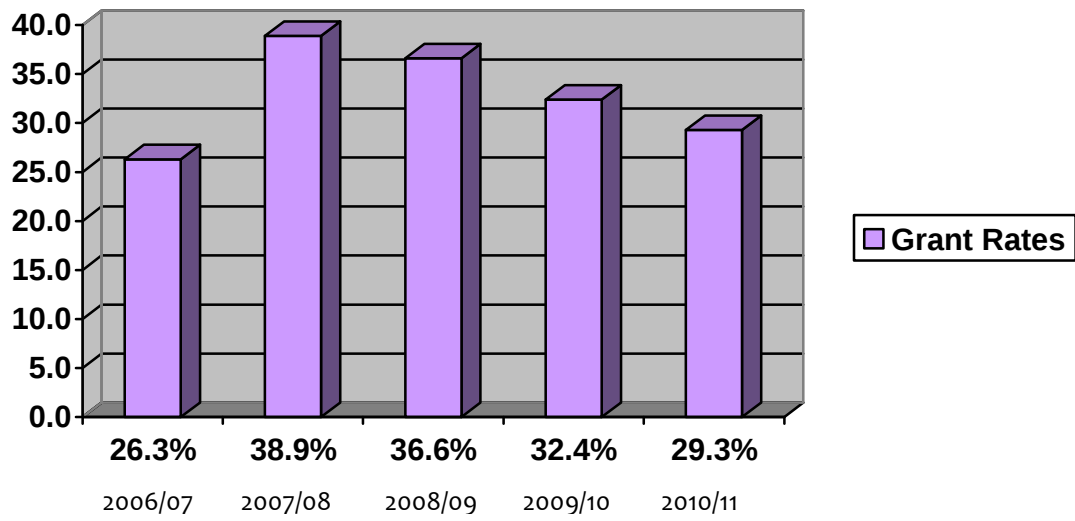
91%

The percentage of offenders who successfully completed their temporary absence.
Down 6.4% from 2009/10

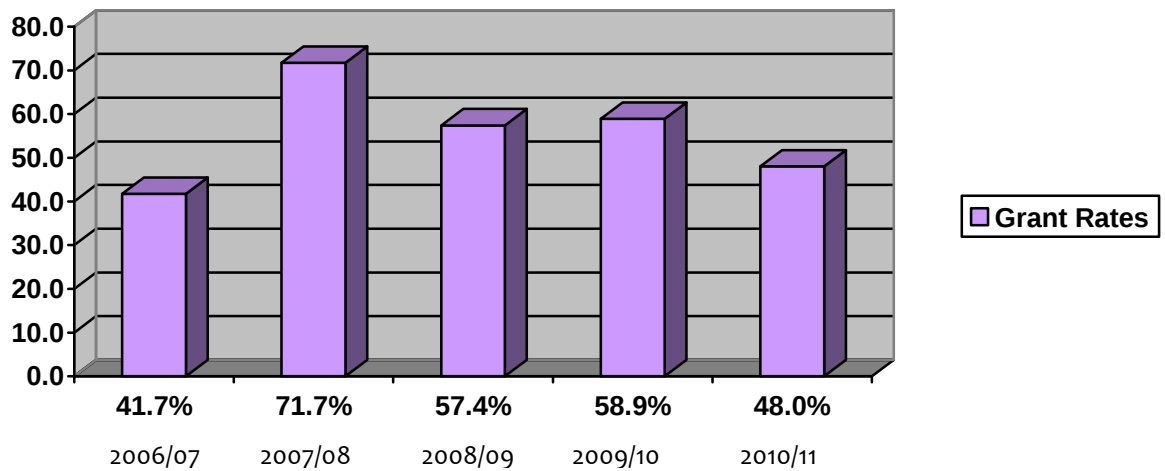
100%

The percentage of offenders on Board approved temporary absences who remained free of new criminal charges while on temporary absence release.

Five Year Overview of Parole Grant Rates



Five Year Overview of Temporary Absence Grant Rates



Greater Accessibility for Victims

The Board continues to measure its progress on being more open, accountable and accessible in the decision-making process for conditional release by collecting trend information on contacts with victims and observers at parole hearings.

Number of victim contacts	194
Number of victim statements submitted	79
Number of victims notified of the decision	42
Number of victims attending hearings	35
Number of observers at hearings	5

In 2010/11, numbers in all tracked categories relating to victims rose 194% and 93% respectively from the previous year. The largest increases were in victim contacts and statements. In addition the Board saw a significant increase in the number of victims attending hearings over the previous fiscal year and the largest since the legislation allowing victims to attend hearings was implemented. In an effort to connect with more victims, the Board redesigned the victim brochure, application submission form and other material which were also posted to the Board's website. In addition the Board continues to seek opportunities to discuss with Probation and Parole Officers the importance of contacting victims as part of the pre-parole investigation process.

The timely processing of post suspension hearings and temporary absence applications within the requisite timeframe is important in measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the Board in the administrative work that it does. For 2010/11, the compliance rate continued to be 100%.

Percentage of post suspension hearings scheduled within 30 days of notification of offender's return to custody	100%
Percentage of temporary absence hearings scheduled within 30 days of receipt of application	100%

Budget and Expenditures

Major Category	Approved Budget (\$ Thousands)	Actual Expenditures (\$ Thousands)	Variance between Approved Budget and Actual Expenditures (\$ Thousands)
Salaries and Wages	1,428.1	1,314.6	113.5
Employee Benefits	228.5	209.0	19.5
Transportation and Communication	370.1	275.7	94.4
Services	730.0	629.9	100.1
Supplies and Equipment	68.8	28.0	40.8
Total	2,825.5	2,457.2	368.3

The Board's budget is largely driven by caseload and training needs.

Training

The need for the professional development of members beyond a one-time basic training course continues to be a priority of the Board. A well-rounded program of skills development has been put in place over the last two years through careful management of resources and partnerships with other paroling authorities. The investment in training promises to yield long term personal, professional and organizational gains.

In keeping with the Board's annual training plan, courses were held for members throughout 2010-11. A two day Risk Assessment for Parole course was delivered by Dr. Jim Bonta and focused on the Level of Service Inventory- Ontario Revision (LSI-OR) and strategic training initiatives in community supervision.

A one day session was delivered to our members by staff of the Vanier Centre for Women and dealt with gender responsiveness, including defining the female offender, an overview of available institutional programming and feedback from the offender population with suggestions for conducting a positive hearing.

The third course was sponsored by the Board's Central East Regional Office for staff and members. Over two days, sessions focused on offender programming across corrections, specific programming delivered at the Central East Correctional Centre, Emergency Management Ontario and Guns, Gangs and Hate Crimes facilitated by the Ontario Provincial Police.

In addition, Board Case Officers were provided with a one day training session on understanding and dealing with victims. The course focused on building rapport, dealing with difficult clients/situations, identifying the types of victimization/diversity, crisis intervention/safety, self care and emerging issues in victimization.

As part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Canadian Association of Paroling Authorities (CAPA), the Board partnered with the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) and the Quebec Parole Board to develop a one day joint training conference bringing together members from the country's three paroling authorities. The one day joint session was part of the larger annual risk assessment training program that PBC runs each year for its members. A number of workshops were offered on such topics as Actuarial Tools in the Risk Assessment Process; Analyzing Risk for Aboriginal Offenders; Best Practices in Decision Writing and Advanced Interviewing skills. A small contingent from Ontario participated.

In 2010-2011, one new part time member was appointed to the Board and through a partnership with the Parole Board of Canada; the member attended a two week new member training program. The training through the federal board

builds onto the training provided by the Ontario Board and allows the two Boards to partner and share expertise and knowledge. In addition, one of the part time members was appointed as a full time member (Vice Chair) to a vacancy in the South West Region.

Legislative Changes

In April 2010, the government proclaimed the *Adjudicative Tribunals Accountability Governance and Appointments Act, 2009*. The Act will be brought into full effect on June 30, 2011. The purpose of the legislation is to ensure that adjudicative tribunals are accountable, transparent and efficient in their operations while remaining independent in their decision-making. The Act will require agencies to develop a number of accountability documents (eight in total) and will outline a competitive, merit based recruitment process for the selection of persons to be appointed to adjudicative tribunals. Agencies will be required to have developed accountability documents by April 1, 2012.

Financial Review

In 2010-2011, the Board underwent a financial review conducted by the Internal Audit Division of the government and the results indicated the following:

“Overall we noted the Ontario Parole Board corporate office had efficient and effective financial and administrative controls with processes and policies in place. Financial transactions were commonly supported with appropriate documentation and processed completely, accurately and in a timely manner. Regular monitoring, reconciliation and reporting of financial information was occurring.”

Partnerships

Over the last year, the Board continued to play an active role in various criminal and administrative justice organizations such as the National Joint Committee, the Canadian Association of Paroling Authorities, the Canadian Criminal Justice Association, the Association of Paroling Authorities International and the Adult Community Corrections Advisory Council. The Board also has an ongoing liaison with various victim advocacy agencies, including the Office for Victims of Crime.

Throughout the year, the Board sought out and capitalized on opportunities to convey the message of conditional release and community safety. This was especially evident in our Central North Region where the Vice Chair participated as a panelist at the Conference of Ontario Judges in North Bay, was a speaker at the Native Institution Liaison Officer (NILO) Provincial Conference, chaired the Annual Suicide Conference in Orillia and lectured students of the Community and Justice Services program at Cambrian College.

The Board continued to foster sound working relationships with its criminal justice partners over the year, especially with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). In 2010-11, a number of young persons serving sentences for serious offences under the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) were eligible for parole consideration as a result of transferring to the adult correctional system. Two information sessions were organized by the Board, bringing together sentence specialists from MCYS and MCSCS and legal counsel to ensure a full understanding of young persons' rights and impact of YCJA legislation.

We anticipate the Board will continue to see young persons serving sentences for the most serious offences such as first degree murder and attempted murder and will continue to work on further defining our needs in this area in 2011/12.



On September 2, 2010, Dennis Murphy passed away in his sleep at the age of 73 after a valiant battle with cancer. Dennis spent twenty-five years as a full time member with the Ontario Parole Board from September 1, 1978 to August 31, 2003. Prior to his appointment to the Board, Dennis served as vice-president and director of a large Canadian-based transportation company. Dennis was regarded by his peers as an authority on the paroling system in Canada and prior to his retirement in August 2003, he had participated in more than 10,000 hearings. During his extensive career with the Board, Dennis represented the Board before special committees and participated in educating the public about parole. Dennis is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

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(905) 693-3098 (fax)

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(705) 324-4184
(705) 324-8439 (fax)

Central North Region
478 Bay Street
Midland, ON L4R 1K9
(705) 526-2500
(705) 526-2566 (fax)

Or visit our website at www.opb.gov.on.ca

For information regarding the release of a provincial offender on parole or temporary absence, victims and other members of the public may contact the:



Victim Support Line at 1-888-579-2888

In the Greater Toronto Area, please call (416) 314-2447.

Disponible en français