

"He was determined to save the young and careless from a wasted life of crime. Through his vision and persistence, a system of repression has been gradually replaced by one of leadership and training. We shall remember him as one who believed in his fellow-men."

Inscription on the gateway of Borstal in honour of the founder

The British Columbia Borstal Association has been a leader in supporting the paradigm shift from a correctional model of punishment to one of rehabilitation. The New Haven Correctional Center was an early example of the value of humane investment. This investment remains controversial and some would argue that consequences are more important than making sure the behavior or action is not repeated. This point of view is understandable, but there are a few salient points that the readings below expand upon:

Adverse life experiences:

Have you ever known a child that you felt was already at a disadvantage? Many young people survive adverse life experiences through critical years of development – physical, emotional and mental. As they enter their adult years there is an unwritten expectation that the slate of time is wiped clean

Reintegration:

Reintegration is a process whereby a person is reintroduced to their community after a period of incarceration, with a team of supports, resources, programs and supervision. The reintegrative process is initiated as a part of the individual's sentence to support re-entry **and** to keep the community safe. Without this process, and a return to a purely punitive model, a person would serve their entire sentence in a secure facility and be released at their sentence expiry without access to skilled support and supervision. Which model do you support?

A few readings on Rehabilitation

- Punishment and Rehabilitation, J G Murphy
- The Little Book of Restorative Justice, Howard Zehr
- Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice, Howard Zehr
- Preventing Violence, James Gilligan
- Delaney's Hope. Ed Griffin



1899 - Two boys in Portsmouth Prison, three years prior to the intro of the Borstal system. Sentenced to hard labor for Willful Damage to a Door (throwing mortar at it).