

Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility

Quick Facts

Project Announced: November 2010

Facility Opened: February 2015

Size: 65,200 sq ft

Capacity: 196 offenders

Site: Priestville, Pictou County

Superintendent: Tim Carroll

Why did the province need a new facility?

The Northeast Nova Scotia Correctional Facility (NNSCF) replaces the aging Antigonish and Amherst facilities. Antigonish, which opened in the 1940s and closed on Jan. 6, 2015, had a capacity of 17 offenders. Amherst, which opened in the 1890s and closed on Jan. 5, 2015, had a capacity of 29 offenders. The new facility will add 150 beds to the provincial correctional system.

Will my community be safe?

Public, staff, and offender safety was the most important consideration when designing the NNSCF. The building meets maximum security standards and has state-of-the-art technology.

Our correctional services staff complete a thorough recruitment process and receive extensive training to ensure a high standard of security at our provincial facilities.

We have also been in close contact with local law enforcement agencies, and will work closely with them to ensure that the safety and security of the surrounding communities is maintained at all times.

What is the difference between a provincial correctional facility and a federal penitentiary?

A provincial correctional facility holds people in custody who have received a sentence of incarceration of up to two years less one day, or are people who have been ordered into custody (remanded) pending the outcome of a court proceeding.

A federal penitentiary holds people in custody who have received longer court sentences – two years or more.

How long is the average person held in custody at Nova Scotia's provincial facilities?

The average period of incarceration is 53 days. Thirty-three percent of persons in custody are serving a sentence.

What does remand mean?

Sixty-three percent of persons in custody at provincial correctional facilities in Nova Scotia are on remand. Offenders on remand are people who have been ordered into custody pending the outcome of a trial, bail hearing or other court proceeding.

How do you help rehabilitate offenders?

We want to help people in custody rehabilitate and develop useful life and employment-related skills for when they return to their communities.

Some of the programs offered in Nova Scotia's correctional facilities include General Equivalency Diploma (GED) education classes, anger management, substance abuse management, spiritual and cultural services, and Working on Our Futures (WOOF), a program where offenders help train dogs for families wanting to adopt.