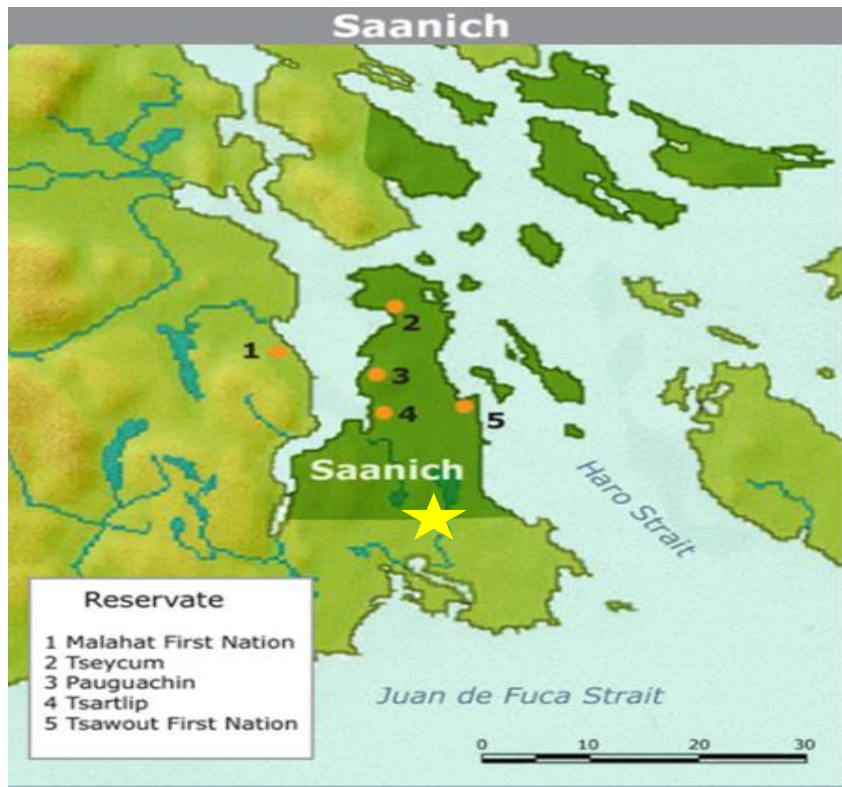


# Territory Acknowledgment



VIRCC is located on the  
territory of the  
**W̱SÁNEĆ Nation**

BÓKEĆEN – [Pauquachin](#)

SᐁÁ,UTW – [Tsawout](#)

W̱JOŁEŁP – [Tsartlip](#)

W̱SÍKEM – [Tseycum](#)



BC Centre for Disease Control  
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# STBBIs testing in BC Provincial Corrections

Feb 4, 2021

# Group Agreements

- Limited cross talk
- Respect the space
- Respect for confidentiality
- Don't yuck my yum

# The Plan

1. Explain what this project is about
2. Talk about why STBBI testing in jails is important
3. Talk about barriers to STBBI testing
4. Hear your thoughts on how STBBI care is and should be done

# Pathways to Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (STBBIs) care in BC Corrections



**Vision:** To co-create a province-wide STBBI testing policy + guidelines informed by people who are or have been incarcerated.



**NOTHING ABOUT US  
WITHOUT US**

# Policies and Guidelines

A **policy** is an agreement about *what* is going to be done - i.e. protocol.

A **guideline** is information about *how* something should be done.

# What will be different about these guidelines?

Policies and guidelines will be different because:

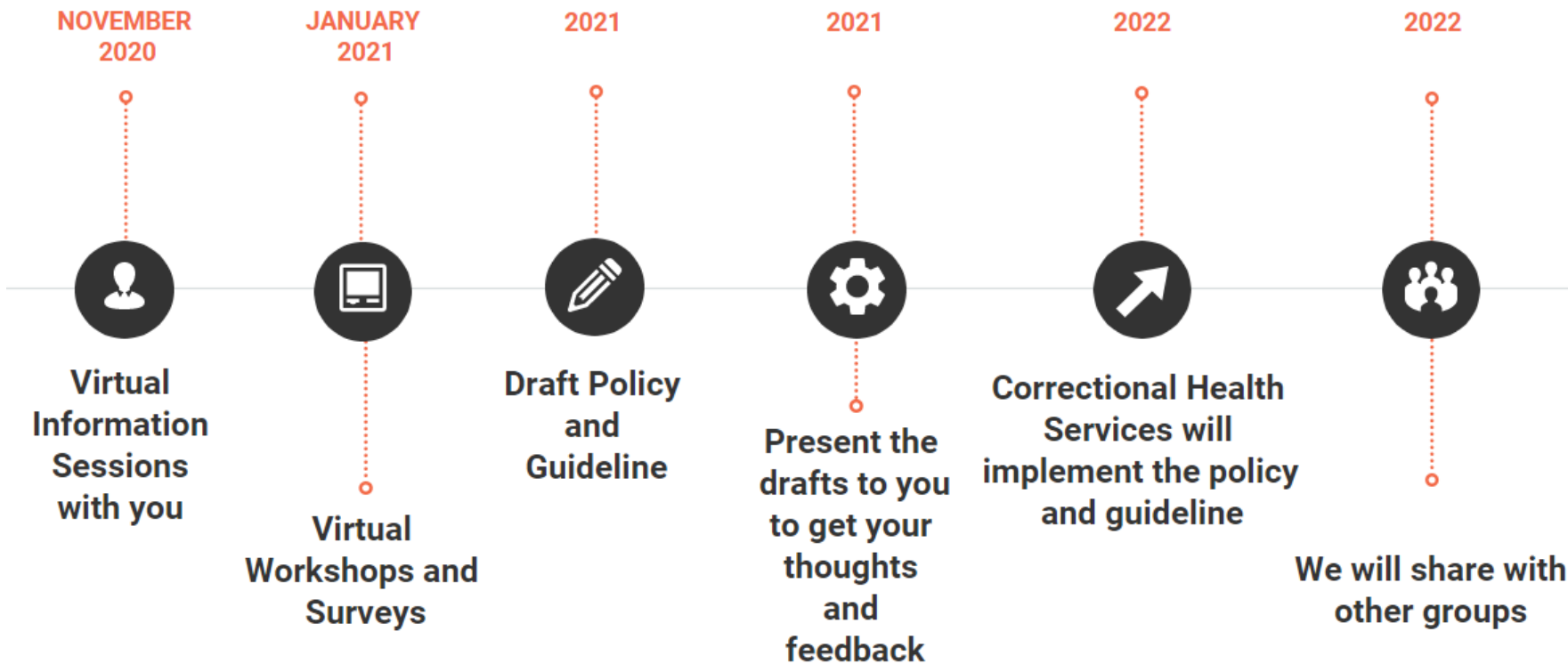
- We are listening to you
- We want these new guidelines to be person-centered
  - People participate in their own care + decision making
  - People are informed about care options
  - People have control over their choices

# Why are we doing this?

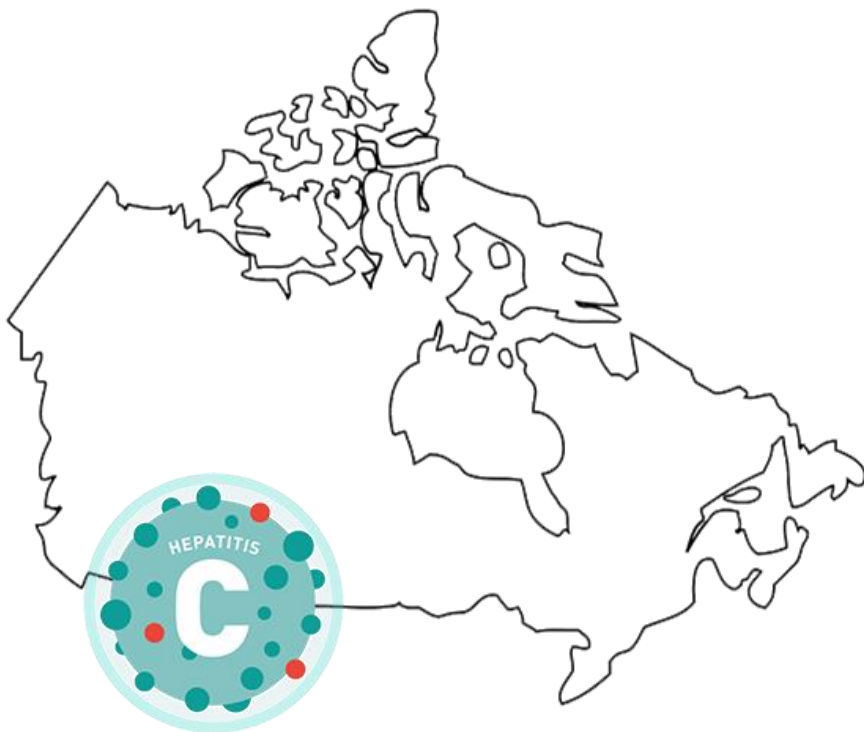
- No BC guidelines for how to do STBBI testing in correctional settings
- Correctional Health Services wants to introduce Opt-out/universal testing (because it is generally better)
- We want to make sure **your** voices and opinions about this are heard



# Pathways to Sexually Transmitted and Bloodborne Infections (STBBIs) care in BC Corrections



# Hep C in Canadian Prisons



Canada's prison population  
includes an estimated

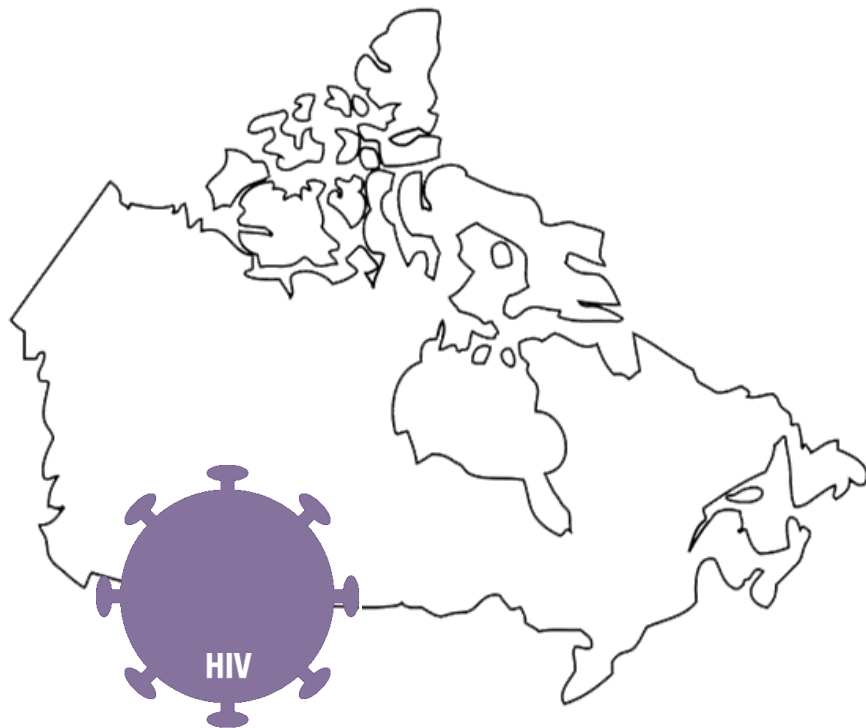
**12,000**

people living with  
**hepatitis C**, nearly

**30 times**

the rate for people not  
incarcerated

# HIV in Canadian Prisons



Canada's prison population  
includes an estimated

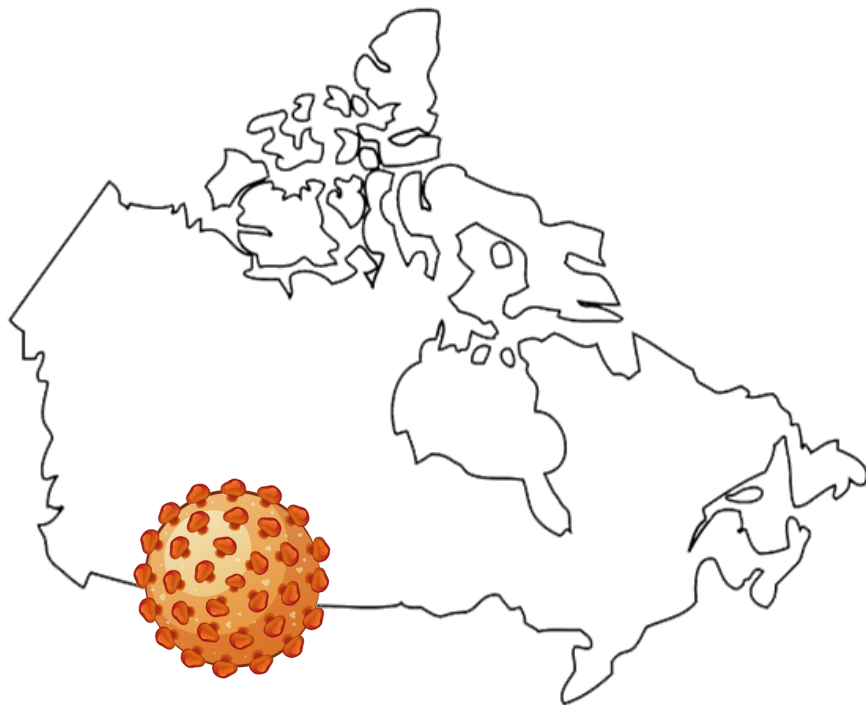
**1,000**

people living with  
**HIV**, nearly

**5 times**

the rate of people not  
incarcerated

# Hep B in Canadian Prisons



Hepatitis B

Canada's prison population  
includes an estimated

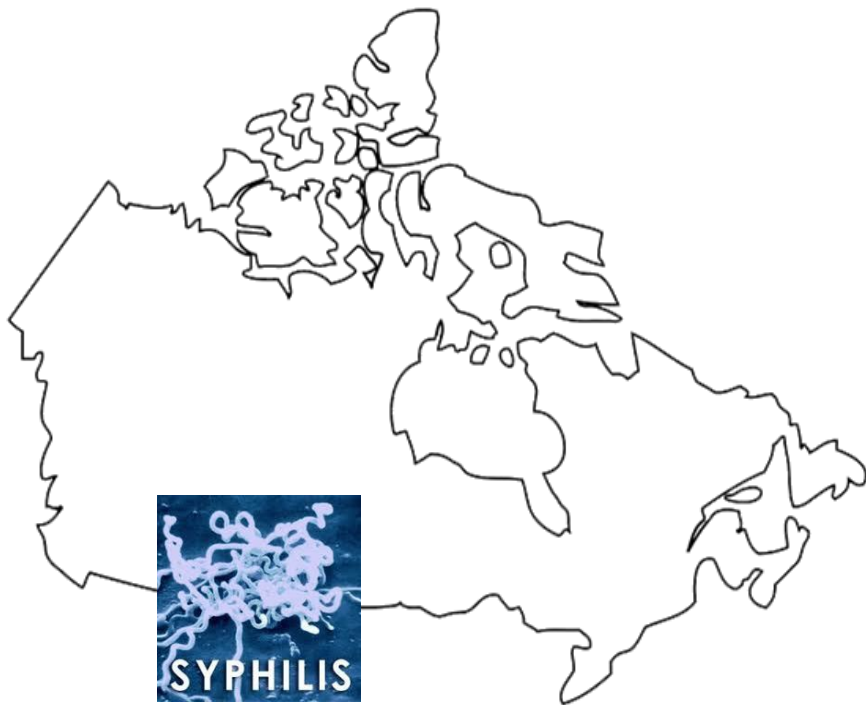
**1,500**

people living with  
**hepatitis B**, nearly

**3 times**

the rate for people not  
incarcerated

# Syphilis in Canadian Prisons



Canada's prison population  
has an estimated

**28 cases**

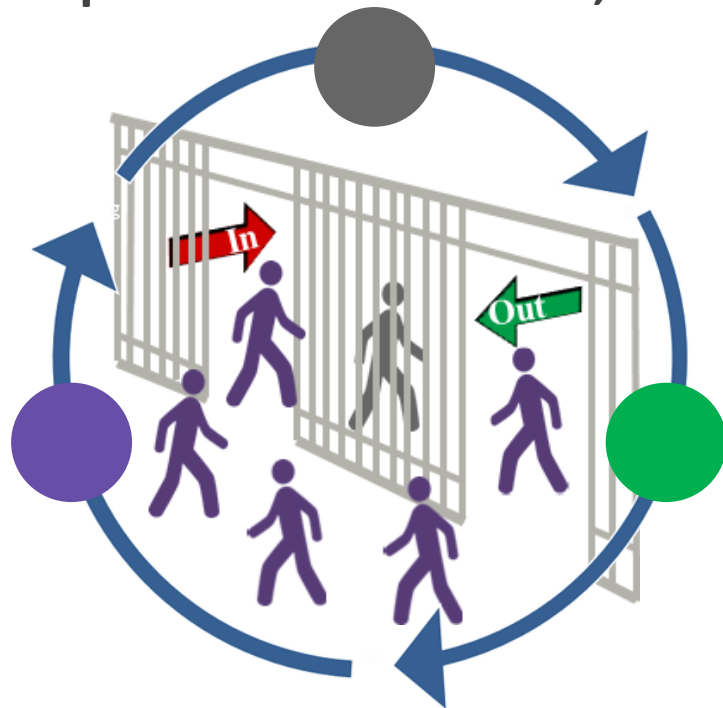
cases of **syphilis**  
for every

**4.5 cases**

in people not incarcerated

# Why more STBBIs for Incarcerated People?

No harm reduction + hard to get care =  
STBBIs passed around inside, untreated



People targeted by  
cops/laws at ++ risk  
for STBBIs

People leave jail  
without getting care;  
health does not  
improve

# Systemic Barriers to Care

Obstacles to getting what you need created by something bigger than you...



# Systemic Barriers to Care

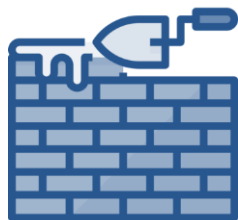
STIGMA



LACK OF ACCESS  
TO INFO



LIMITED SERVICES



POLICIES



# Stigma

**Stigma** is a negative attitude or belief about a person, based on a negative stereotype.

**Discrimination** is treating someone differently based on stigma.

# STBBIs and Stigma



Image credit: Canadian Liver Foundation

**Stigma associated with STBBIs can prevent people from requesting testing, medical care or support from friends/family/community.**

- “Only injection drug users get Hepatitis C”
- “Why would you want to work with people with hep C?”
- “Why should we fund STBBI care when people have inflicted this harm upon themselves?”
- “You have one shot at this, don’t mess it up”

# HIV Stigma



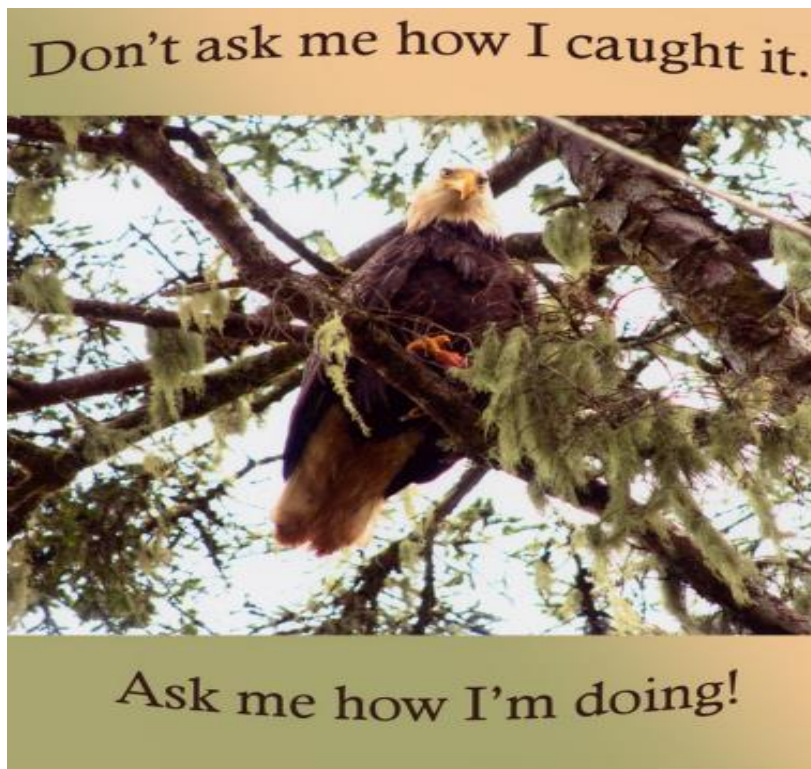
# Stigma

“The way people treat you, you’re like an outcast.”

“They’d be like – she’s got HIV don’t go near her.”

“They look at you like you’re contaminated.”

# Stigma



# Why is STBBI screening in jails important?



- You can't treat what you don't diagnose!



- Testing in BC jails is not offered consistently
  - Only 15% of people who entered BC Provincial Corrections in 2019 received an HCV test
  - Only 60% of BC Provincial Correctional Health Centres reported that HCV/STBBI screening is opt-in or opt-out



- Barriers to STBBI testing result in few people getting tested and knowing their status

# STBBI Testing Strategies



**1. Opt-out/universal**



**2. Risk based**



**3. On demand**



**4. As part of other care**

# Others have done it too...

2003



~23%

2019



1%

In 2003, about **23%** of people in **Delaware** prisons had HCV.

In 2019, only about **1%** had HCV!<sup>1</sup>



# What do you want to know before getting tested?

“What kind of test is it?”

“How will I get my results?”

“Who will know I got a test?”

“What happens if I test positive?”





# What else?



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# Thank you!



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& SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES  
Provincial Health Services Authority

## Questions & Discussion

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