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Jordan Armstrong 5/19/2010

BCGEU wants more jails

The BC Government Employees' Union says the Provincial Government needs to quit stalling and built a new jail in the Okanagan. The Union's Dean Purdy says the Government has admitted there is a need for a new jail, so he's puzzled why they're refusing to fund one.

He says a new Correctional Centre in the Okanagan would go a long way to reducing overcrowding province-wide, "They acknowledge that the nine jails are running at about 180 percent above capacity and they're reached a critical capacity. This is directly linked to overcrowding, inmate riots, staff assaults. And it's now so desperate that the Ministry is monitoring counts on a daily basis."

The Union says a new jail should be big enough to house upwards of 500 inmates.