

Federal laws could mean more inmates: Analysis

The Daily News (Nanaimo)

Fri Sep 24 2010

Page: A6

Section: British Columbia

Dateline: VANCOUVER

Source: News Services

New federal tough-on-crime legislation could increase the number of inmates in B.C. jails by more than 270 within two years, an analysis by the provincial government has warned.

That means even greater overcrowding in provincial institutions, the head of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union said Thursday. There are 2,654 inmates in nine provincial jails on remand, awaiting trial or serving sentences of less than two years.

The B.C. government has already admitted that jails are running over capacity, are creating a pre-trial centre in Surrey, and are adding more beds to other existing buildings.