

Inmate attacked with pencil now blind in one eye, union says

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An inmate stabbed twice below his left eye by his cellmate at Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre had to undergo brain surgery in a Vancouver hospital, a BCGEU spokesman said Tuesday.

Dean Purdy said the inmate has bits of pencil lodged in his brain and underwent surgery. He's also heard the prisoner is now blind in the one eye.

Mark Lindsay, 24, faces a new charge of aggravated assault in connection with Thursday afternoon's stabbing. He is in the prison facing a robbery charge after being arrested by RCMP on Sept. 21.

The victim is identified as Michel Desmond Fougere, 21, of Kelowna.

Meanwhile, Purdy said Steven Michael Hodgins, 22, a prolific offender who walked away from a low-risk work crew outside the prison's secure perimeter on Oct 25, remains at large.

The union maintains overcrowding and understaffing is to blame for both incidents.