

# **Jail guards face abusive work conditions, says B.C. report**

## **Criminologist says hire more corrections officers**

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Simon Fraser University criminologist Neil Boyd says B.C. corrections officers are more likely to face on-the-job violence than any other protective service worker in the province, including police officers.

Boyd says more than 90 per cent of correctional officers have been exposed to blood and more than 75 per cent to feces, spit and urine and two-thirds have received a credible threat from an inmate.

Dean Purdy with the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union says assaults on staff are increasing.

"We've been meeting with Worksafe BC and we've actually written a letter to them and put them on notice that our biggest concern is that if we don't see something done, we're going to see a correctional officer die on the job," Purdy said.

Boyd's report is based on a survey of more than 200 B.C. correctional officers.

The report was released by the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union.

Boyd's report calls for a return to 20-to-one inmate to staff ratios from the current 60-to-one levels in some B.C. jails. Purdy wants the government to hire at least 150 to 200 more correctional officers.