

# NEWS SERVICE

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## NEW CONCEPTS SET FOR YOUTH CENTRE

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Modern Detention, Treatment  
Facilities Are Incorporated

An entirely new concept in detention and treatment programs will be carried out in plans for the new Manitoba Youth Centre to be built on the former Fort Osborne Barracks site -- at the corner of Tuxedo and Kenaston boulevards -- Health and Social Development Minister Rene E. Toupin has announced.

Construction is scheduled to begin in February, with completion expected in mid-1972. The minister said that posters announcing the intended construction are being displayed in the area. The Board of Adjustment will hold a hearing January 4, to review the application for the use of the land for this project.

The two-million-dollar centre will be designed to permit freer interaction between centre residents and their counsellors and will de-emphasize the traditional detention institution aspect while ensuring security, the minister said.

The principle embodied in the government's concept of "handling troubled youth" rather than "incarcerating criminals" has dictated the new programs and procedures, the minister said, and would be reflected in the design of the youth centre.

Mr. Toupin said that the new building and planned programs were in keeping with modern methods of treating juvenile offenders observed by the team he led to Scandinavia recently.

The buildings will be constructed on a grouped cottage plan, each of the four double units housing groups of 15 young residents. Every two units will share common work facilities -- activity rooms, classrooms and so on. Each group of 15 will be kept together throughout the day, during group counselling, education, recreation, dining and social periods. The building complex will provide the opportunity for boys and girls, teachers and counsellors and in-coming volunteer members of the community to intermingle within the varied program schedule.

The program committee had asked the architects to provide areas where residents and staff can meet in an atmosphere in which the young are more comfortable. The emphasis will be away from the "establishment" kind of surroundings, with implied, rather than rigidly designed meeting places.

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Many of the 33 separate activities listed as part of the program will overlap as to space and staff requirements and it will be possible for the various groups to use the same areas and equipment, as for instance in the gym, chapel, playgrounds. The design principles of flexibility and multi-purpose use of space will strongly influence the architects' development of the final scheme.

Detention residents will be kept separated from the treatment residents, but as much free movement as possible will be afforded the young residents, Mr. Toupin said. He explained that a detention resident is a juvenile boy or girl alleged to have committed a delinquent act, and if released might become involved in acts dangerous to himself or the community. Or, the minister said, the boy or girl in the 14-to-18-age group, might have run away from a foster home in which he or she was placed by the courts and is being detained until a new placement is made. The customary length of stay for such youth is eight to nine days.

A treatment resident, who may stay for one to four months at the centre, the minister said, is classed as a juvenile boy or girl judged to be delinquent and placed in the program as part of his or her probation.

Probationers, young persons found delinquent by the court, will be permitted to live in the community but they must report to the probation officer at the centre.

The choice of the 4.5-acre parcel of land at the Fort Osborne site is particularly advantageous, Mr. Toupin said, for a number of reasons. The government already owns the land; immediate construction can begin on the site; the area is serviced by three Metro buses, and has controlled parking with a 24-hour security-check system.

Facilities in the Fort Osborne complex can be shared by staff and residents of the Manitoba Youth Centre, the minister said. The government-operated steam plant, cafeteria in the Fort Osborne buildings, presently under-used kitchen and food preparation facilities at the School for the Deaf, electric power and water and fire system are all available to occupants of the new building. As well, Mr. Toupin said, Fort Osborne maintenance staff can service the centre.

The main building, with which the cottages are to be grouped, will house such facilities as administration offices, probation offices, a classification unit, children's forensic service, a juvenile hearing room, judges' chambers, a waiting room and facilities for visitors.

Mr. Toupin said his staff and government architects had combined their efforts to arrive at a unique functional program. "The final program was achieved after detailed study of many correction techniques and facilities across North America and confirmed by a visit to Scandinavia," Mr. Toupin said. "We are indebted to the federal Department

of the Solicitor-General for making available to us the services of two consultants, Jewel Goddard, Minneapolis, and Ken McReynolds, an architect from Toronto."

Mr. Goddard is director of court services for Hennepin Country and is well-informed regarding correctional methods. He is one of the contributors to "Design For Change," a recent publication by the California Youth Authority.

Mr. McReynolds has produced a paper on corrections for the Solicitor-General's department and has been engaged in research on the topic as background for his Ph. D. He has a master's degree in architecture and is a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.