

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider the following for publication as a letter to the editor:

Shutting down federal prison farms is ironically occurring as the general public becomes more and more concerned with environmentally-conscious, sustainable agriculture.

Given the food safety scares of the past year, the demand for both organic and locally-sourced food is surging. Canadians are legitimately becoming more and more anxious about food safety and nutrition.

Canada's prison farms sit on some of the most desirable agricultural land in their regions. Many are close to urban areas. While that should ideally place them to profit from the demand for organic and locally-produced food, abandonment of CSC's farm programs places the surplus farmland under threat from development. Paradise may well indeed be paved over.

Should the government resist the temptation to sell off the decommissioned farmland to the private sector, that is no guarantee that this rich farmland will ever be returned to production.

It is an open secret that CSC is planning to construct a series of huge mega-prisons of a size never before seen in this country. Adding abandoned prison farm land to the total acreage occupied by an existing correctional facility creates prime real estate for these monstrous new Institutions.

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