

B A R N O N E

Newsletter of Bar None Prison Rideshare

Fall 2018

Bar None is an abolitionist* prisoner solidarity group based out of Treaty 1 territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The prison rideshare is an ongoing project of Bar None to connect people with rides to visit their friends and loved ones who are in prison.

Update: Justice for Errol

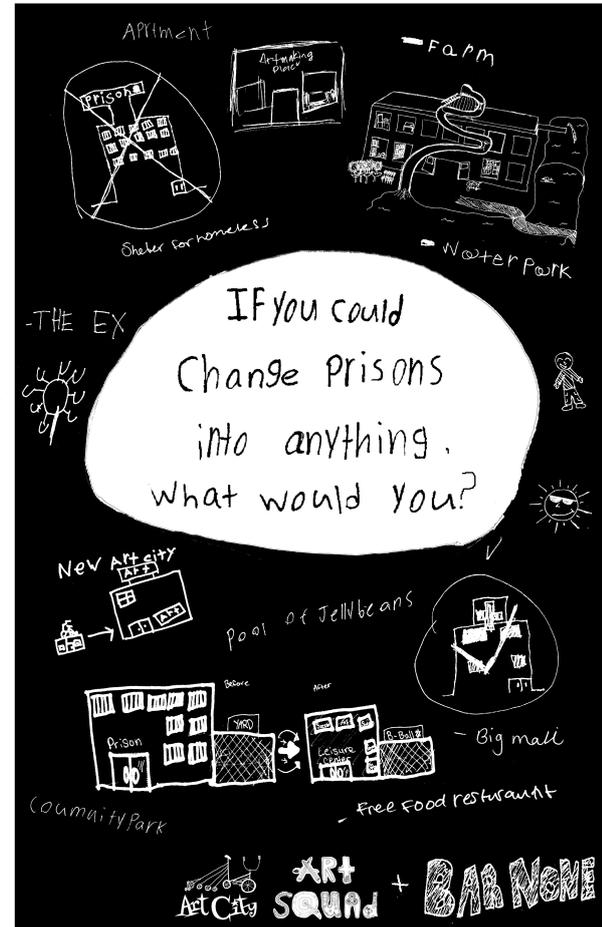
The inquest into the Remand Centre death of Errol Greene resumed this October at the Law Courts downtown. In 2016, Errol was denied life-saving medication and mistreated by guards while having multiple seizures, which led to his death. Show up in person at the inquest and/or support the family's legal fees at <https://ca.gofundme.com/chelles-legal-fees-for-inquest>. Find out more about inquest dates, Errol and the struggle for justice at <https://www.facebook.com/Justice4Errol/>.

Update: Phone struggle at provincial jails

With help from families, Legal Aid Manitoba is working on a case against the inflated new phone prices - \$3 per 15 minutes, or hundreds of dollars for what used to be free - introduced in 2016 by the Manitoba government. The new prices separate our communities even more (and line the pockets of big US firms Synergy Inmate Phones and Telmate). Stay tuned for more info on this fight.

*What do we mean when we say that we're abolitionist?

In short, we believe prisons are cruel, racist, classist institutions. We believe they don't keep us safe. We believe they should be abolished in favour of more humane, just ways of relating to each other and addressing the harms we do to each other and the systemic inequalities in our society. For more information on prison abolition - including links to other resources - and Bar None, please visit our website: barnoneblog.wordpress.com.



This past July, youth from Art City's ARTSquad and organizers from Bar None got together to talk about prisons and dreams for the future.

No new North End police station!

Congratulations to the people of the North End who stopped the Winnipeg police from building a new \$23 million station over the Nomads football fields and Old-Ex softball diamonds, saving much-needed youth recreation space. The WPS still plans to build it somewhere but imagine the youth rec plex we could build for \$23 million!

Prison strike

People imprisoned across the US and in Nova Scotia's Burnside jail pulled off a massive prison strike this past August and September, engaging in work stoppages, hunger strikes, and commissary boycotts. US strikers had 10 demands including "immediate improvements to the conditions of prisons" and "an immediate end to prison slavery". Nova Scotia strikers' 10 demands included contact visits and no limits to visits. Hundreds of rallies and phone zaps to support striking prisoners took place across the US.

How Bar None works:

There are no paid workers in Bar None; everyone involved in Bar None and the prison rideshare project are volunteers. Rides through the prison rideshare project are free and we reimburse drivers for their gas. We hold fundraisers and receive small grants from West Broadway Community Organization and Daniel McIntyre/St. Mathews Community Association as well as receive individual donations to reimburse drivers and cover event costs.

Roles within Bar None:

- Core organizers meet once every two weeks and keep things rolling.
 - Coordinators take turns with a one or two week shift with the Bar None phone and connect people who are looking for rides with volunteer drivers.
 - Volunteer drivers pick people up before their visits, drive them to the prison and take them home at the end of the visit.
 - Riders (visitors) call the prison and Bar None to arrange visits to see their loved one, meet up with the driver at the agreed upon time and go for their visit.
- People are welcome to fill more than one role in Bar None. For more information on how to get a ride or volunteer in any way, please get in touch using the contact information at the bottom of the newsletter.

Whether or not people are able to get rides through Bar None is entirely dependent on a volunteer driver being available. Unfortunately about half the time there isn't a driver available and we aren't able to arrange a ride, so we are always looking for more drivers!

What we've been up to

In addition to the ongoing work of keeping the rideshare running, Bar None has been up to some other things this past spring and summer, here are a few of them:

- Along with the Prison Library Committee we held a book and bake sale at Daniel McIntyre/St. Mathews Community Association in order to raise money for our work and to spread book love.
- We held a workshop to train new volunteers how to coordinate rides using our phone and database system.
- We held a two day long visioning session to reflect on and strategize about our work. We covered a lot but all of the things we discussed for the future fell under three broad goals:

1. Build power and increase participation
2. Raise expectations (of justice, of what is possible) and circulate ideas.
3. Make gains (including shrinking the current system)

- We held a BBQ for everyone involved in the project to visit and have some food.

