

BAR NONE

**PRISON
RIDESHARE
HANDBOOK**

What is Bar None?

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.

Why are rides to prison important?

Most of Manitoba's prisons are located outside of the cities where the majority of imprisoned people are from. There are no busses to take people to prisons, and this often means people on the inside don't get visited, and people on the outside don't get to visit if they don't have regular access to a car.

Connecting people with rides is one way to work against the damage incarceration does to the relationships that sustain communities. We see this work as part of our commitment to the principles of prison abolition.

Prison abolition? What's that all about?

Prisons haven't been around forever, and we don't think they will be. The current justice system is failing. Yet most people still think of prison as the one and only way to deal with crime, especially violent crime. This lack of imagination afflicts even the most progressive segments of society.

Prisons don't work, because [they don't actually reduce crime](#). [They are racist](#): in Western Canada, prisons and policing were [developed to target Indigenous peoples](#). In 2014, [77% of the people imprisoned in Manitoba were Indigenous \(and that number is rising\)](#) whereas Indigenous peoples make up [17% of Manitoba's population](#). Prisons are classist because [they target poor people more than rich people](#). They are cruel and ineffective because they take people away from their families and communities, which isolates prisoners rather than holding people accountable for the harms they may

have caused. This causes lasting harm to imprisoned people and their communities.

Reformers try to make prisons more sensitive to the needs of different groups - unfortunately evidence shows that this often leads to more people imprisoned and more families divided. At the same time, the move to free some prisoners - such as those imprisoned for minor offenses - reinforces the idea that other people truly belong in prison. Prison abolition means we need to stop thinking that way, and start thinking about what might work better. There are more humane and effective forms of justice than prisons and we need to start practicing them.

If you want to read the source information for the underlined statements please ask us to email you the digital version or find it on our website.

Ride Logistics

Statement on Respect

As an abolitionist group we understand that prisons are the problem, not the people imprisoned in them. To this end we want to work against racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression. We expect respect between everyone involved, in all directions (between drivers, passengers, and coordinators), within this project. We want people to feel comfortable and safe during rides. This can mean different things to different people. We encourage people to talk to each other if any issues arise during the ride. We recognize this can feel difficult because of a power imbalance between drivers and passengers. We also encourage people to bring up any issues with the coordinator.

Statement on Confidentiality

We've developed this statement because some riders have expressed that this is something that is important to them, while others have said otherwise. People through taking

rides aren't consenting to have information or stories shared, however we recognize that friendships can develop out of these rides and that they will be negotiated on their own terms. While we don't want to stigmatize imprisonment, as this is something we identify as an oppressive dynamic in society, and something we're actively trying to work against, we also acknowledge that this information can have effects on people's housing and employment situations. If people have confidentiality concerns you're encouraged to talk about it with each other or the coordinator.

Coordinators

- Receive ride requests
- Connect drivers to riders
- Facilitate reimbursements
- Attend Bar None's biweekly meetings & help organize the project. Anyone is welcome to come to these.

Riders

Get clearance to visit the prison (if you'd like assistance with this process, we can help you through it)

Book a visit with the prison

Call or email the rideshare coordinator at 204-599-8869 or barnone.wpg@gmail.com. The earlier you request the ride, the easier it will be to find you a driver. If you have specific needs, or concerns about confidentiality, let the coordinator know. The coordinator will send an email to our driver's listserv with the time, date and jail being visited.

The coordinator will let you know once a driver volunteers and will give your contact information to the driver

The driver will be in touch with you before the visit to confirm time/pickup location

If something comes up and you can't make your visit, let the driver and coordinator know

Drivers

Respond to the email confirming you can drive.

The ride coordinator will let you know who you're picking up and where you're going. This will include a method of contact (probably phone, maybe email) for the rider.

Check in with the person you're driving within 24 hours before the ride to confirm when and where you'll be picking them up, number of riders, if you need a carseat (we can provide this if it's needed), or if there are any other details either of you need (sensitivities to scents or pets or what have you).

Check your odometer before you go - you will need to give us the number of kilometers for the trip to be reimbursed for gas.

There have been many questions about what drivers can claim as part of the kms for their trip, or if they can drive back into the city. The short answer is: we have no hard rules about this either way. We want to make it possible for people to volunteer when they can, and recognize that time and gas money are valuable resources that some people have more of than others. It is totally fair to volunteer to drive and need to claim the entirety of your trip and/or use the time during a 3-hour visit for something else. At the same time, we are a volunteer organization whose funding is unstable and want to ensure that we are reimbursing drivers based on need. If you are in a position to only count the trip to and from the prison, we ask that you consider doing so to keep the availability of rides open for other visits. Drivers know their own situation best and the call is up to them, we're not checking google maps and no one will question it; so claim it if you need to without feeling guilty.

If you get coffee / food for yourself or the rider, keep your receipts. You'll need to hand them in to be reimbursed - up to \$15 per person per ride

When you drop your rider off at the jail, confirm when the

visit will be over. If you can, exchange cell phone numbers in case they need to be picked up sooner

Check your odometer again when you're done and fill out the ride report. The coordinator will probably get in touch to check in with you about how it went.

Mileage to Stony Mountain and Headingley is paid out at a rate of \$0.35/km and a rate of \$0.25/km for Milner Ridge, Portage and Brandon prisons at the end of the month unless otherwise requested. If you need gas money in advance of the ride let the coordinator know.

If you'd like to "shadow" a ride before doing one by yourself, let the coordinator know and they can arrange one.

If you forget to check your odometer, you can use google maps to determine the distance.

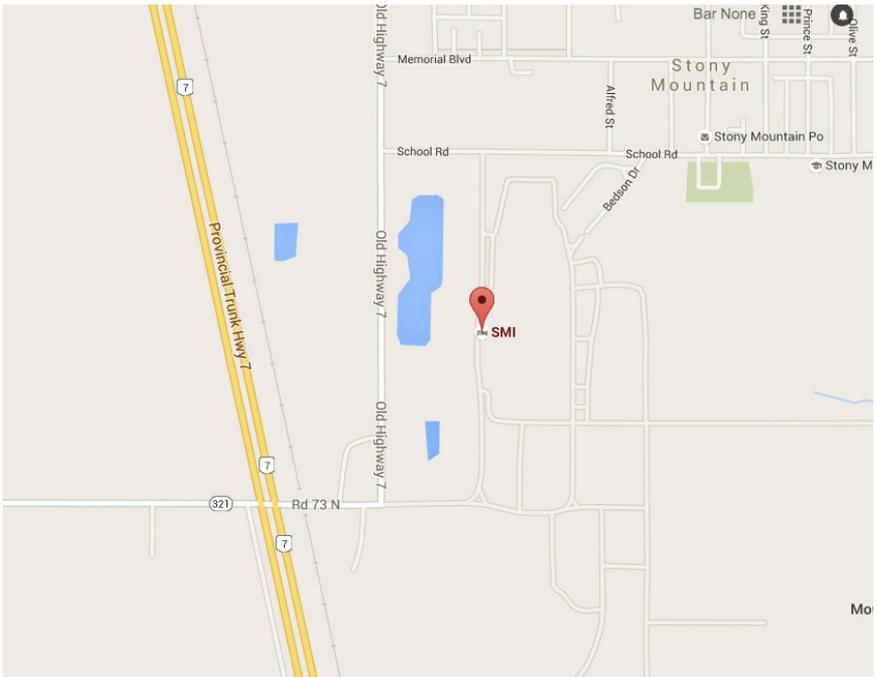
Info about specific jails

Stony Mountain / Rockwood

Take route 90/Hwy 7 north out of Winnipeg. Turn right on Rd 73 (there's a sign for Stony), go straight through the next intersection. To go to Stony, drive up to the front of the big building. To get to Rockwood, drive past the overflow parking and park in the next lot to your right - Rockwood is facing this lot.

Places to go

- Summit Cafe in stony (closes at 8pm & closed on Monday)
- library in Stonewall
- legion in Stonewall

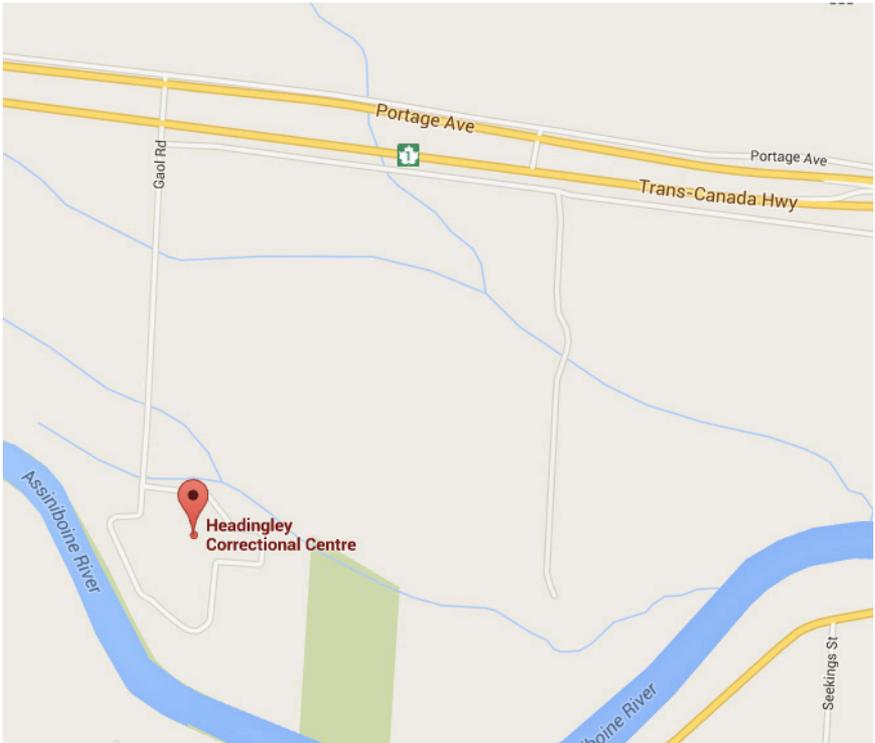


Headingley Men's

Take Hwy 1 west out of Winnipeg. Pass through Headingley, turn left on Gaol Rd and stop at the booth until a guard gives you "permission" to enter. If there's no guard, just wait at the booth until they return. You should arrive 15 mins before the visit starts as they sometimes refuse people who don't.

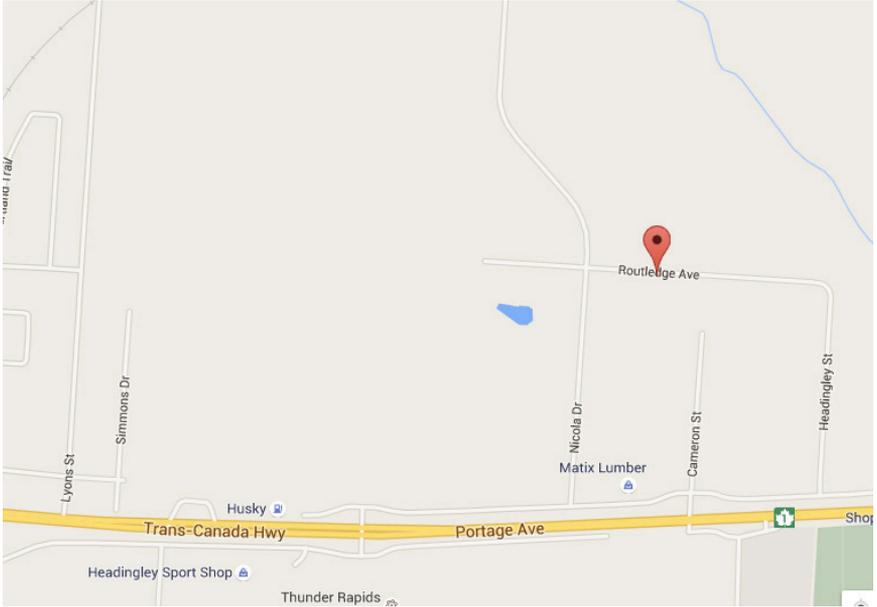
Places to go

- Nick's Inn (off hwy 1)



Headingley Women's

Take Hwy 1 west out of Winnipeg, turn right on Cameron St. and immediately left on the service road. Turn right again at Nicola Dr. and right onto Routledge - the prison is on the left.

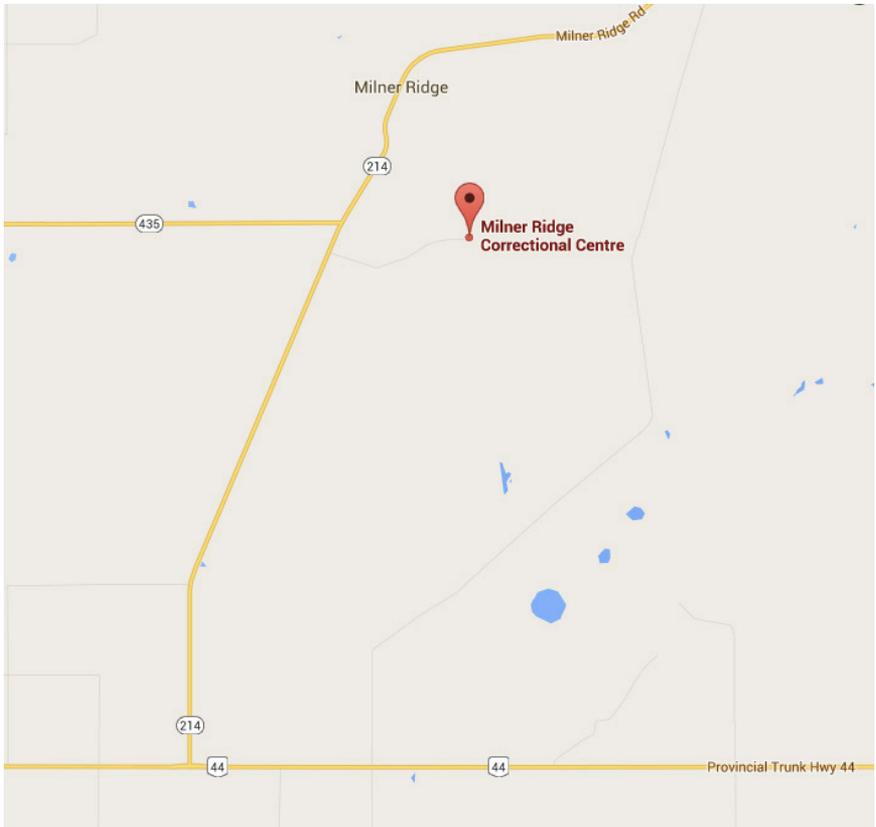


Milner Ridge

Take Hwy 44 east out of Beausejour, after about 15 mins past Beausejour turn left/north on Hwy 214 for another 5-10mins. Turn right & follow the signs further into the bush.

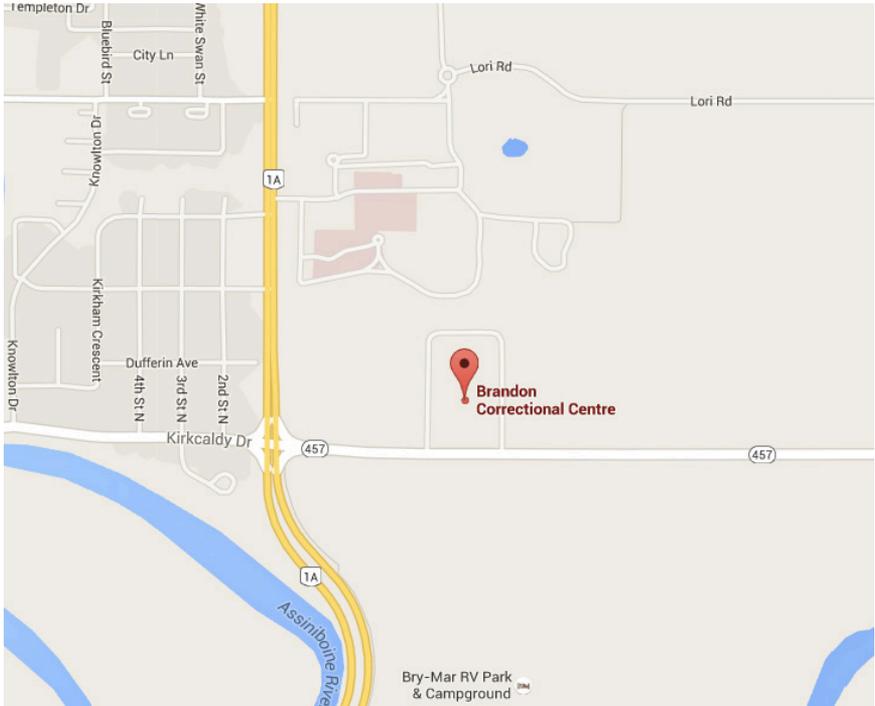
Places to go

- the gas station at the corner of highway 214 and highway 44.



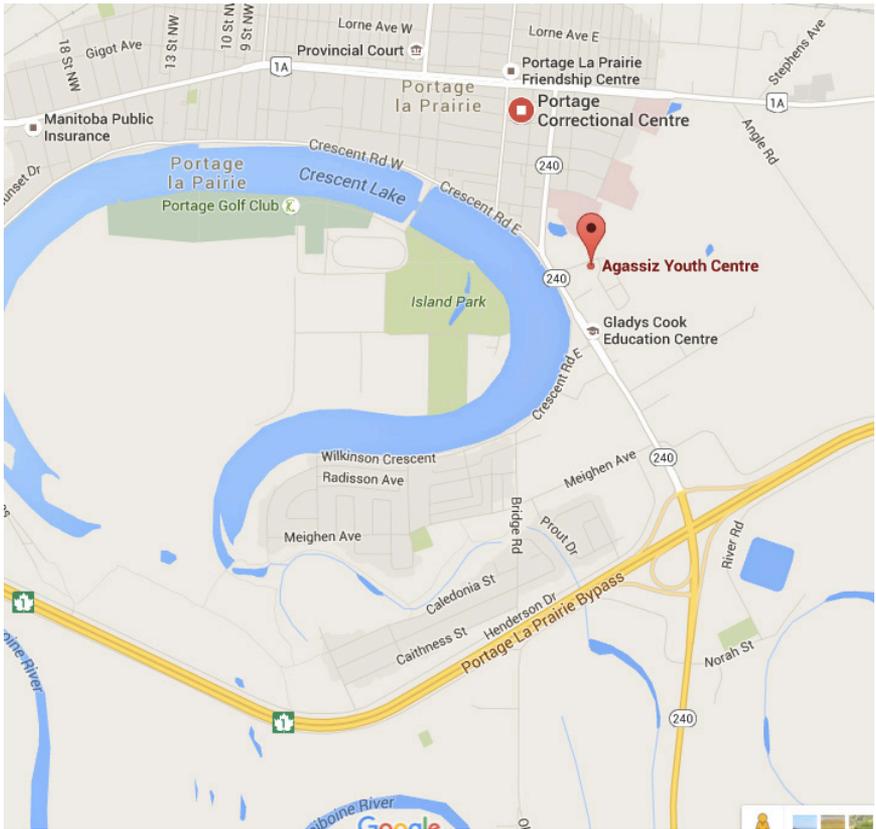
Brandon

Take Hwy 1 west all the way to Brandon, take Hwy 1A into town (it's the first set of lights once you start hitting services). You will see signs for Hwy 457, take it east and the jail will be immediately to the left.



Agassiz (Portage La Prairie)

Take Hwy 1 west to Portage La Prairie, go into town, and you'll take left at 5th Street NE / Hwy 240. Once you pass the hospital on the left, it's the first left.



We are always looking for drivers, people with vehicles they are willing to lend, and donations for gas money. These rides are free of charge to passengers, and we reimburse drivers for gas money.