**The Ticket of Leave**

**Parole from prison has been a part of Canada’s correctional system since the Ticket of Leave Act, 1899.**

**The Act (TLA) remained unchanged until 1959 when it was repealed. Many problems with the system of leave became evident. The TLA contained no reference to the purpose of release and it did not have any defined criteria for leave eligibility. Offenders could be granted early leave from a penitentiary at the discretion of the Governor General. Wardens in each institution had the power to make parole decisions, leaving the system of early release open to abuse and arbitrariness.**

**The TLA did not contain any provisions to ensure surveillance of the offender on release and discretion was left to any peace officer to arrest a person on leave who was apparently “leading an idle and dissolute life without any visible means of obtaining an honest livelihood”.**