



Warden knew little about Ashley Smith before arrival at prison in Ontario



Ashley Smith is shown in an undated handout photo released at the inquest into her prison cell death. (THE CANADIAN PRESS)

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TORONTO -- The woman in charge of the prison in which a troubled teen killed herself is testifying she knew little about the inmate before her arrival in August 2007.

Acting warden Cindy Berry says she was only told Ashley Smith, 19, was prone to self-harming and would tax resources.

Smith arrived from Nova Scotia on the Friday of a long weekend, and immediately began tying ligatures around her neck.

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Berry also says she was told national headquarters had taken a keen interest in Smith's case.

She says that was extraordinary.

The initial plan was for Smith to stay at Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., for three weeks.

Smith choked herself to death in her segregation cell in October 2007, as guards videotaped but did not intervene.