



Western Canada's first AIDS service organization providing support to those living with HIV/AIDS and leadership in prevention education.

July 12, 2006

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
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Dear Prime Minister:

As the Executive Director of one of Canada's oldest AIDS service organizations, it is of utmost concern that the harm reduction initiatives provided by the Supervised Injection Facility continue. This facility plays a fundamental role in preventing the spread of HIV.

We are at a historical crossroads. After nearly three years of operation, North America's only Supervised Injection Facility (SIF), located in Vancouver, requires ratification from the Government of Canada, to renew its' permit.

I am writing to you to ask that you encourage the Minister of Health, the Right Honourable Tony Clement, to approve this renewal. The approval will have ongoing implications in terms of established best practices and future innovation for healthcare interventions in addiction.

Healthcare decisions need to be evidence based. Evidence shows that Vancouver's SIF reduces healthcare costs associated with preventable overdoses and the spread of infectious blood pathogen diseases like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis.

The majority of Vancouverites from the business, social and healthcare sectors, including members of the Editorial Board of the Province's largest newspaper the Vancouver Sun, current Mayor, Chief of Police and Provincial Health realize the Supervised Injection site is an integral factor in a continuum of care.

Client Services
Grocery Program
Helpline
Library

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Fax 604.893.2205



Gay Men's Health

913 Davie Street
Vancouver BC V6Z 1B9
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Tel 604.682.3900
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General Administration
Fund Development
Volunteer Resources
Women's Programs
Technical Services

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Tel 604.893.2201
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Support AIDS Vancouver

www.aidsvancouver.org / email: contact@aidsvancouver.org

I encourage you to provide your full support for the Federal exemption to allow this healthcare innovation to continue its work.

I remain,

Yours respectfully,



William Booth
Executive Director
AIDS Vancouver

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