



CITY OF VANCOUVER
COUNCILLORS' OFFICE

COUNCILLOR GEORGE CHOW

July 20, 2006

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to give my personal support to the continuing operation of the Supervised Injection Facility (SIF) in Vancouver.

As past President of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver and current City Councillor, I am keenly aware of the debates surrounding the establishment of the SIF. However after three years, I am pleased to say that the initial fears of the community - re potential increase in crime and public disorder - have not materialized. In fact, with the help of health professionals and the Vancouver Police, the SIF has brought about a decrease in overdose deaths, public injection and discarded syringes, as well as other community benefits such as disease prevention and treatment referral.

There is no doubt the right vs. wrong debate on the SIF will continue but the reality is - given the serious drug problem in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver - the Supervised Injection Facility is a temporarily workable solution while we seek more treatment, and deal with the root causes of drug addiction.

In asking for your support of the SIF, Prime Minister Harper, I would also opine that drug addiction is a serious problem facing many communities of our country and that the Federal Government should take the lead to work with the Provinces/Territories toward a national drug strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Chow".

George Chow
Councillor
City of Vancouver
clrchow@vancouver.ca
604-873-7245