



August 11, 2006

Right Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2
Fax: 613-941-6900

RE: Vancouver's Insite safe injection facility.

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students in British Columbia, and the many people and families affected by drug addiction in BC, I urge you to renew the exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the continued operation of the Insite safe injection facility in Vancouver.

There is widespread support for the continued operation of Insite, spanning community organisations, healthcare professionals, local businesses, and the citizens of Vancouver. As well, the Vancouver Police Department has expressed its wholehearted support for the continuation of this initiative, having witnessed its benefits while maintaining a constant presence in Vancouver's downtown eastside before and after the implementation of Insite.

Independent, peer-reviewed research has illustrated that Insite has contributed to public safety in Vancouver through decreasing public drug injection and public disorder. Furthermore, Insite plays a role in relieving the significant burden of HIV/AIDS-related medical costs to Canada's health care system, through reducing the risk of transmission.

Most importantly, lives have been saved and living standards increased as a direct result of Insite's operation. The facility acts as an entry point to connect users with other health services, including nearly 800 referrals to addiction counselling in one year. Possibly hundreds of lives have been saved through effectively treating overdoses at the facility, as opposed to leaving people to overdose on the street.

In short, Insite works. The facility saves lives and has a demonstrated role to play in increasing public safety and combatting drug addiction. The Canadian Federation of Students urges you to ensure that the Insite safe injection facility is able to continue to operate. We would appreciate hearing your position on this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Shamus Reid
BC National Executive Representative
Canadian Federation of Students

Cc. Libby Davies, Hon. Bill Graham, Insite for Community Safety



August 11, 2006

Honourable Health Minister Tony Clement
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 992-5092

RE: Vancouver's Insite safe injection facility.

Dear Minister Clement:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students in British Columbia, and the many people and families affected by drug addiction in BC, I urge your government to renew the exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the continued operation of the Insite safe injection facility in Vancouver.

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Sincerely,

Shamus Reid
BC National Executive Representative
Canadian Federation of Students

Cc. Libby Davies, Hon. Bill Graham, Insite for Community Safety



August 11, 2006

Honourable Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 995-1154

RE: Vancouver's Insite safe injection facility.

Dear Minister Day:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students in British Columbia, and the many people and families affected by drug addiction in BC, I urge your government to renew the exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the continued operation of the Insite safe injection facility in Vancouver.

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Sincerely,

Shamus Reid
BC National Executive Representative
Canadian Federation of Students

Cc. Libby Davies, Hon. Bill Graham, Insite for Community Safety



August 11, 2006

Honourable Justice Minister Vic Toews
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 995-1049

RE: Vancouver's Insite safe injection facility.

Dear Minister Toews:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students in British Columbia, and the many people and families affected by drug addiction in BC, I urge your government to renew the exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the continued operation of the Insite safe injection facility in Vancouver.

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Sincerely,

Shamus Reid
BC National Executive Representative
Canadian Federation of Students

Cc. Libby Davies, Hon. Bill Graham, Insite for Community Safety

August 11, 2006

Honourable Minister for the Pacific Gateway
and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics David Emerson
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 943-0219

RE: Vancouver's Insite safe injection facility.

Dear Minister Emerson:

On behalf of the 150,000 members of the Canadian Federation of Students in British Columbia, and the many people and families affected by drug addiction in BC, I urge your government to renew the exemption under Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to allow the continued operation of the Insite safe injection facility in Vancouver.

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In short, Insite works. As Vancouver prepares for the Olympics, it can be proud of the innovative, compassionate, and, most of all, effective method by which it is dealing with one of the major social issues facing the city. The Canadian Federation of Students urges you to ensure that the Insite safe injection facility is able to continue to operate. We would appreciate hearing your position on this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Shamus Reid
BC National Executive Representative
Canadian Federation of Students

Cc. Libby Davies, Hon. Bill Graham, Insite for Community Safety