

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

June 21, 2006

Mr. Prime Minister:

Re: Supervised Injection Site (SIS), Vancouver, British Columbia

Per captioned subject matter, I am cautiously supporting the continuing operation of the facility for the mutual benefits of nearby communities and the facility users.

I have been involved in community work for over ten years and have been chairing the Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association for the past five years. I am also a business operator and owner of several properties in Vancouver Chinatown. I have, certainly, witnessed the prosperity and the poverty of Chinatown and the Vancouver Downtown Eastside community.

Combating drug addiction and its related social issues remain to be an on-going challenge for the government and all stakeholders. While emphasis should be placed on enforcement, i.e. the law should be strictly enforced on drug trafficking, victims of drug addiction should also be concerned based on humanitarian means. A facility such as the SIS which offers a clean and safe environment for the drug users will prevent the spread of contagious diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis C. There are additional benefits of shielding the drug users from the public; that would surely improve the optics for the community and enhance the perceived safety for the pedestrians, residents and shop owners. The SIS is not perfect and challenges continue to exist; further fine-tuning is essential to utilize its full potential. If the SIS were to be closed, however, no further improvement can be implemented and the drug users will be forced back onto the streets to administer their habits. Dire consequence such as undesirable street activities will surely return and the perception of street safety will certainly be severely compromised. Continuing operation of the SIS should be allowed to refine its facility which would benefit all. The SIS has provided some positive outcome to the merchants, pedestrians and residents: we no longer need to be imposed on witnessing drug users injecting themselves on the streets and back alleys. The SIS has been and continues to be an essential factor on successfully implementing the Four Pillars approach on drug addiction.

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As an individual who has been involved in community work for over a decade; and as a property and business owner, please allow me to state my opinion that the benefits of the SIS had been demonstrated throughout Vancouver's Downtown Eastside community. And while further improvement on the SIS is required, I am, cautiously, supportive of its continuing operation. SIS' existence and operation will be mutually beneficial for the pedestrians, residents, property and business owners, and, of course, drug users. Please also allow me to add that allocating additional resources to increase enforcement on those who challenge the law is equally essential as it further enhances and supplements the Four Pillar ideal. Thank you very much for your kind attention and consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Fok', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Albert Fok