



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 17, 2006  
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VanRIMS No.: 11-2200-01  
Meeting Date: October 31, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Drug Policy Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Continuation of Drug Policy Program

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve the establishment of a permanent Drug Policy Program by converting the following temporary full time positions into Regular Full Time positions, at an estimated cost of \$240,000 including fringe benefits:
  - Drug Policy Coordinator
  - Social Planner 1
  - Clerk IIIsubject to review and classification by Human Resources, plus \$90,000 program costs for a total annual cost of \$330,000 without offsets
- B. THAT Council adopt the Drug Policy Program Planning Framework as the basis for ongoing Drug Policy work.
- C. THAT staff report back on the Drug Policy Program on an annual basis.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Addiction and mental health are major issues in Vancouver. The Drug Policy Program plays a key role, working with health and enforcement partners and the community in developing prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement strategies to minimize harm to individuals and communities from the negative impacts of problematic drug use and the illegal drug trade. The Drug Policy Program enhances the City's capacity to address these issues on a continuing basis.

## **CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The Drug Policy Program has increased the City's capacity to engage citizens and other jurisdictions in working together to develop solutions to drug problems in Vancouver. In April of 2006 Council requested that the Drug Policy Program report back to Council in time for the 2007 budget process. The City Manager recommends approval of A, B and C

## **COUNCIL POLICY**

In April of 2000, City Council approved the creation of the position of Drug Policy Coordinator.

In May of 2001, Council approved: "A Framework for Action: A Four Pillar Approach to Drug Problems in Vancouver".

In March of 2003, Council approved extension of the Drug Policy Program for a period of three years.

In November of 2005, Council approved the prevention plan "Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use".

In April of 2006, Council approved a one year extension of the Drug Policy Program and requested report back on the program in the fall of 2006 in time for the 2007 budget process.

## **SUMMARY AND PURPOSE**

This report presents an overview of the work of the Drug Policy Program, identifies priorities for the program for 2006-08 and articulates areas where action should be considered to address public health and public order issues in Vancouver. It articulates the future direction of the Drug Policy Program. The report recommends continuation of the Drug Policy Program and program staff positions on a permanent basis.

## **BACKGROUND**

In April of 2000, City Council approved the position of Drug Policy Coordinator in order to facilitate and support the development of a comprehensive approach to problematic drug use and to advocate for Provincial and Federal action to address drug problems in Vancouver.

Based on the work of the Drug Policy Program, in 2001 City Council adopted "A Framework for Action: A Four-Pillar Approach to Drug Problems" in Vancouver. A major premise of the drug strategy is that to be successful in developing a sustained and comprehensive approach to problem drug use in society a considerable investment by all levels of government is necessary. Equally important is sustained political leadership to keep the issue high on the public agenda. Key goals of the Four Pillars strategy are improvement in public order and addressing serious drug-related public health concerns.

In 2003, Council approved continued funding for the Drug Policy Program and the Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment (changed to the Four Pillars Coalition in 2003). The

past three years have seen incremental and significant movement towards full implementation of the Four Pillars strategy.

In 2005, Council approved the plan “Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use” which outlines a comprehensive approach to the prevention of problematic substance use in Vancouver

The Drug Policy Program has increased the City’s capacity to engage the community and other levels of government in issues related to the negative impact of drug use on individuals and communities within Vancouver. Over the past six years it has provided City Council and the community with considerable information, expertise, focus and leadership on issues relating to harmful drug use in Vancouver.

The Drug Policy Program’s recent work in the area of prevention is also congruent with the intended outcomes of the social sustainability work that the City is undertaking through the Social Development Plan.

The Drug Policy Program works within this broad context to provide the following work to the City of Vancouver. The program:

- Provides the City of Vancouver with a **Policy Framework and Recommendations** for action to reduce individual and community harm from drug use. It also offers information, policy analysis and expertise to the Mayor, Council and City of Vancouver departments to facilitate decisions addressing the harmful impacts of drug use on the community and individuals;
- Initiates and facilitates **Project Development and Evaluation** across the Four Pillars, in collaboration with relevant partners;
- Fosters **Public Awareness and Education** and clarifies public perception on relevant issues; and
- Promotes **Innovative Approaches** to reduce problematic drug use and provides effective guidance and leadership towards the implementation of a comprehensive approach to problem drug use in Vancouver.

The Drug Policy Program provides leadership on the Four Pillars Strategy at the municipal level, offers support for community initiatives at the local level and works towards continued collaboration with the community, senior levels of government, other municipalities and community serving organizations in responding to problem drug use in the city. A detailed listing of projects completed by the Drug Policy Program, ongoing initiatives and proposed future work is attached in appendix 1.

## DISCUSSION

### The Context of Drug Policy Work in Vancouver

In the six years since the adoption of the City’s Four Pillars Drug Strategy significant progress has been made towards building a comprehensive approach to dealing with the challenges posed by those with mental health and addiction issues. In addition, coordinated enforcement efforts have been stepped up with the goal of disrupting the illegal drug market in the city. The restoration of public order and the reduction of harm to communities and individuals continue to be key goals of the Four Pillars strategy.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has expanded a number of its services, implemented new services and in future months, will be implementing new initiatives offering methamphetamine treatment, addressing long-term youth treatment, and opening Onsite (30 supportive housing units) above the supervised injection facility. VCH will provide the health services support for both the drug treatment court program and the new Community Court project, which will be implemented in the new year. These new interventions will add to the array of programs needed to show progress over the coming months and years. VCH will also release a Strategic Framework for Mental Health and Addictions in Vancouver this December which will articulate the continuum of care for those with mental health and/or addiction issues.

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) continues to focus on the infrastructure of the drug trade, working with the City and the Vancouver Agreement partners to target business operations contributing to public disorder and to the drug trade in the Downtown Eastside including illegal operations within businesses and hotels. The VPD has also implemented a policy of targeting drug use and possession of drugs in places frequented by children and families, such as schools and parks, and in public places where drug scenes obstruct public access to businesses or public facilities.

These collective efforts by health and enforcement agencies have led to significant improvements in public health outcomes and modest reductions in most types of crime city wide.

There is a continuing focus on issues of public order and public health in Vancouver's inner-city. In order to fully address these concerns there are certain key priorities that should be the focus of government partners and the broader community if significant improvements to the inner-city environment are to be realized in the next three to five years.

VCH estimates that there are at least 2,100 individuals in the Downtown Eastside with serious mental health and addictions problems that are inadequately served by existing resources. Many of these individuals live in substandard Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotel rooms, visit shelters or are homeless. In addition VCH estimates that there are another 3,100 individuals with multiple problems who are minimally supported and also live in unstable housing.

There are several priority areas for interventions for these populations within the broader continuum of services being developed that have produced improved public order and public health outcomes in other jurisdictions. These are outlined below and should be considered in Vancouver.

### Supportive Housing

There is a broad consensus that a significant number of supportive housing units are needed as part of any plan to address mental health and addiction issues in Vancouver. This has been thoroughly addressed in the City's Homeless Action Plan, as well as in documents prepared by community organizations. The City's Homeless Action Plan identifies the need for 3200 units of supportive housing within 10 years, much of which would serve people with mental illnesses and addictions. Staff will be reporting on a Supportive Housing Strategy to locate this type of housing throughout the city later this year. A component of the public discussion on the strategy will include information related to the City's drug strategy and work with

Vancouver mental health and addictions staff. Drug Policy Program staff will be involved in this process.

#### Integration of Mental Health and Addiction Services

There is an urgent need for an integrated approach to mental health and addictions in Vancouver and an expansion of programs serving those with concurrent disorders. VCH is responsible for developing responses to mental health and addictions and will be bringing forward the above-mentioned Strategic Framework for Mental Health and Addictions in Vancouver in the coming weeks.

#### Expansion of Low-Threshold Programs.

Expansion of successful low-threshold programs such as the Supervised Injection Site (SIS) and consumption rooms would provide marginalized individuals with alternative locations other than the street and other public places for using the drugs that they are dependent on. In other jurisdictions where these interventions exist, increased public order outcomes and the intended public health outcomes are equally important to communities.

Over the past three years, the success of the SIS has been clearly demonstrated. The site has been a significant protective intervention for a population of marginalized injection drug users in the Downtown Eastside and has provided injection drug users with an alternative to injecting in public places. Results from the SIS research project have shown that individuals who use the site:

- previously injected regularly in public places;
- are less likely to share syringes than those who do not use the site;
- inject more safely, even when not using the site;
- are more frequently referred to other drug treatment and health services; and
- are at less risk of overdose than those who do not use the site;

In addition to the expansion of injection site capacity, to move more injectors off of the street, the creation of consumption rooms should be considered for other drug users. Providing those who use crack cocaine with similar harm-reduction programs acknowledges the serious public health and public order issues related to crack-using drug scenes. These services allow crack users to move off of the street into health settings and provide the police and other front-line services with a place to send drug users.

#### Expansion of Drug Maintenance and Substitution Treatment Programs

Evidence from other jurisdictions indicates that Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) programs show significant success in attracting long-term heroin users and retaining them in treatment for significant periods of time. In all jurisdictions where HAT has been implemented there have been positive results, including a significant reduction in criminal activity among those participating in these programs.

In addition to opiate maintenance initiatives, implementation of a stimulant substitution or stimulant maintenance trial in Vancouver should be considered. There is a significant population of drug users at the street level in Vancouver who inject or smoke cocaine or use methamphetamine. This provides an excellent context for implementing stimulant

substitution or maintenance interventions within a research context. Research in other jurisdictions indicates that stimulant substitution and maintenance interventions show promising results in reducing criminal activity, improving the stability of drug users and driving improvements in other health outcomes.

As part of the City's efforts to address both public health and public order, the Drug Policy Program advocates for services to assist individuals to move from the street into supportive environments. Low-threshold programs are critical to engaging marginalized individuals in treatment and harm reduction programs, as a component of a comprehensive approach which also includes increased access to drug treatment, housing, and social supports. In other jurisdictions, these types of interventions have contributed to significant public order and public health outcomes.

#### Drug Policy Program Work plan 2006-08

The Drug Policy Program proposed work plan for 2006-08 outlines an array of work that staff are engaged in currently and will undertake in 2007-08. It builds capacity at the municipal level for the City to address a range of issues affecting individuals and communities in Vancouver. The areas of work that will be undertaken by the Drug Policy Program in the coming months include: (see appendix 1 for a complete listing of proposed work and work underway.)

#### Policy Framework and Recommendations

- **Methadone program and small scale-pharmacies.** Completion of a policy paper on methadone and a review of the City's legislation regarding small scale pharmacies, in order to better address the needs of heroin users and methadone clients, and to address the concerns of local neighbourhoods where there is a proliferation of small scale pharmacies. This work will be done in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Pharmacists, Vancouver Coastal Health, and the BC Pharmacy Association.
- **Mental Health and Addictions.** The Drug Policy Program will work with the City's Housing Centre, VCH, and community serving organizations to develop policy options for the most vulnerable mentally ill and addicted individuals particularly those with concurrent disorders who are residing in SROs, staying in shelters or are homeless.
- **Prevention and Prohibition Related Harms.** Completion of a policy paper for Council's consideration outlining the impact of prohibition-related harm on the city showing the cost to the City of responding to these harms and charting the next steps towards considering alternative approaches to the regulation and control of currently illegal psychoactive substances. Prevention outcomes will be a primary focus of this work.
- **Alternative Criminal Justice Approaches.** Staff will produce a discussion paper for Council on interventions within the Criminal Justice System.
- **Annual Report Back.** Staff will prepare an annual report to City Council on trends in treatment, prevention, harm reduction and enforcement, drug use and drug-related crime.

#### Project Development and Evaluation

- **Stimulant Maintenance and Substitution Treatment.** Facilitation and coordination of feasibility work on stimulant maintenance treatment trials, in partnership with research organizations and experts in other jurisdictions;

- **Low-Threshold Programs.** Staff will continue to work on supporting the implementation of expanded low-threshold programs, such as the Supervised Injection Site, consumption rooms, low-threshold employment programs and other programs aimed at moving street-entrenched drug users off of the street and into contact with health and social services;
- **Four Pillars Youth Engagement Strategy.** Work is underway on developing a youth engagement strategy for problematic drug use prevention, in partnership with the Vancouver Agreement, VCH, the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, the City's Youth Outreach Team, youth-driven organizations and youth-serving organizations;
- **Syringe Management Program.** A significant number of inappropriately discarded syringes are found each year in the public realm. The first phase of a syringe management program is underway and staff will be monitoring the progress and evaluating the expansion of this program, in partnership with VCH and the City of Vancouver Engineering Department. The intended outcome of this project is to minimize the number of inappropriately discarded syringes in public places;
- **Four Pillars Employment Project.** Drug Policy staff are working in partnership with the City's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, the Hastings Institute, CoV Human Resources, CoV Engineering, Building Opportunities for Business and the Vancouver Agreement to develop an employment program for those in recovery;
- **Four Pillars Website.** The Four Pillars website receives a significant amount of traffic. Staff provide regular updates to this site and links to other relevant sites. The Four Pillars site is heavily accessed by the public, having 55,619 visits to date in 2006 (51,000 in all of 2005), 14,700 downloads of the City's Prevention Plan and 8,000 downloads of the Framework for Action;
- **Annual Prevention Event.** The Drug Policy Program is taking the lead in facilitating an annual prevention event. This year's event, "Get Plugged In: The Network for Preventing Harmful Drug Use" will be held November 18<sup>th</sup>. Drug Policy Program staff are working in partnership with the City's Youth Outreach Team, VCH, the Centre for Addiction Research of BC, BC Mental Health and Addictions Services, Fraser Health and community partners to build capacity for prevention initiatives in Vancouver.

#### Public Awareness and Education

- **Dialogue on Drug Treatment.** Development of a public dialogue and symposium on drug treatment in partnership with Vancouver Agreement partners, the Centre for Addiction Research of BC, the drug treatment community, and community partners. The purpose of this event would be to highlight the evidence base for different approaches to drug treatment, examine most promising approaches to healing for those with addictions, consider success rates of different interventions, explore alternative approaches, identify gaps in the local treatment system and enhance the public discussion on the need for a comprehensive system to address those in the community with addiction issues;
- **Four Pillars Newsletter.** Publication of a regular newsletter updating Four Pillars Coalition members and the public on initiatives addressing drug-related health and enforcement issues in Vancouver;
- **Four Pillars Coalition.** Drug Policy Program staff will work closely with the Mayor's office, Four Pillars Coalition Members and the community to assist with the organization of the Mayor's Four Pillars Coalition meetings, which take place quarterly.

The Drug Policy Program also works in a variety of other ways with city departments, the community and other local, national and international jurisdictions. The DPP will continue to work with city departments reviewing development applications for health facilities and liaise with the community to provide expertise, support and information on addiction issues and services. The DPP staff also will be meeting with municipal staff in surrounding municipalities that have developed local strategies to begin to work towards a regional approach to addressing problematic drug use.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Drug Policy Program is comprised of three temporary full time staff positions: Drug Policy Coordinator, Social Planner 1 and a Clerk III. Along with staffing budget of \$240,000, the program has an annual budget of \$90,000 for program costs for communications, materials development, publications, support for the Four Pillars Coalition, public events such as "Get Plugged In", research and consultants. The Program has been funded on a three-year cycle since inception in April of 2000 with funding available till December 31, 2006. Given the on-going requirements described above, this report recommends the continuation of the Drug Policy Program and making it permanent.

### Drug Policy Program

#### Salary Costs: Including Fringe Benefits

Drug Policy Coordinator	\$106,000
Social Planner 1	\$ 81,900
Clerk III	\$ 52,000
Program Costs	\$ 90,000
Total Program Costs	\$330,000

## PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends making the current temporary full-time positions of Drug Policy Coordinator, Social Planner 1 and Clerk III position into regular-full time positions subject to review and classification by Human Resources.

## CONCLUSION

The City of Vancouver Drug Policy Program is an important component of the City's ability to undertake the development of evidence-based policies that will assist in the prevention and reduction of drug-related harm in Vancouver. Given the magnitude and serious impact of drug-related issues in Vancouver, and the long-term approaches necessary to address these issues, it is recommended that the Drug Policy Program be made a permanent component of the City's efforts to address problematic drug use and the illegal drug trade in Vancouver.

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# The Drug Policy Program

A Planning Framework  
2006-2008

October 2006

DRAFT

# The Four Pillars Drug Policy

Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, Enforcement

A Planning Framework 2006-2008

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# The Four Pillars Drug Policy

## A Planning Framework 2006-2008

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### Vision

Enhanced individual and community health and safety through reduced problematic drug use.

### Mission

- To shape policy that focuses on preventing and reducing harm from substance use to the individual and the community
- To collaborate with government and community partners for substance-use policy implementation
- To expand understanding, awareness and discourse around problematic drug use

### Goals

The Drug Policy Program:

1. Provides the City of Vancouver with a **policy framework and recommendations** for action to reduce harm from drug use to individuals and the community and offers information, policy analysis and expertise to the Mayor, Council and City of Vancouver departments to facilitate decisions addressing the harmful impacts of drug use on the community and individuals
2. Initiates and facilitates **project development and evaluation** across the Four Pillars, in collaboration with relevant partners
3. Fosters **public awareness and education** and clarifies public perception on relevant issues
4. Promotes **innovative approaches** in reducing problematic drug use by providing effective guidance and leadership

### Values

The Drug Policy Program:

- Demonstrates that effective **collaboration** among a wide range of professions, community serving agencies, local residents, the business community and the public in general is imperative in addressing the issue of problematic substance use
- Supports **pragmatism** over ideology in developing responses to drug-related harm
- Applies an **evidence-based** strategy as the foundation for its policies and actions
- Promotes **innovation** in reducing drug-related harm



# WORK PLAN

The items in red denote ongoing or projected work over the next three years

# 1

## Policy Framework and Recommendations

Produce documentation with evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations to Mayor and Council and for the general public.

Provide timely information and expertise to Mayor and Council and City of Vancouver departments

### Deliverables

(Past, Current And Projected)

### Time

The following five documents are available to the public and have been widely disseminated:

1. <i>A Framework for Action: A Four-Pillar Approach</i>	2001
2. <i>A Dialogue on the Prevention of Problematic Drug Use</i>	2004
3. <i>Four Pillars, Four Years. Where to Now?</i>	2005
4. <i>Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use</i>	2005
5. <i>Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use: The Short and Sweet Version</i>	2005
Annual report to Council on trends in treatment, prevention, harm reduction, drug use and crime	2007-08
Policy changes to BC methadone program	2007-08
Information fact sheets	Ongoing
Mayor's Four Pillars Coalition meeting presentations 3x/year	2006-08
Review of plans and proposals for addiction services from senior governments, VCH and the non-profit sector	Ongoing
Policy discussion paper on regulation and control of currently illegal substances	2007-08
Policy changes and recommendations for improved mental health services	2007-08

## Description of Actions

Outlines a comprehensive strategy to address Vancouver's drug-use problems through 36 recommendations for action

Provides an analysis of the multi-stakeholder dialogue from the symposium, "Visioning a Future for Prevention: A Local Perspective"

Documents four years of successes and challenges related to the implementation of recommendations from *A Framework for Action*

Outlines a comprehensive strategy based on research and evidence and input from 50 dialogues with the community; includes 27 recommendations for action towards the prevention of problematic drug use

Summarizes *Preventing Harm From Psychoactive Substance Use* in an abridged, youth friendly version

Research, synthesize and document information for Council

Develop a position paper for Council on the BC methadone program considering barriers to treatment and reviewing City bylaws on small scale pharmacies

Disseminate information regularly to Mayor, Councillors, CoV departments and the public by e-mail and on public website

Help set agenda, organize research and resources and provide Mayor with an information package on a given theme for the Four Pillars Coalition Meeting every 4-5 months

Work interdepartmentally in analyzing proposed addiction services and facilities and responding to proposals from senior governments, VCH and the non-profit sector e.g. Health Clinics, Injection Site etc.

Develop for Council and the general public a position paper that addresses the harm to individuals and communities from current prohibition drug policies by researching the evidence on effective approaches to regulating the illegal drug market

Develop a position paper for Council with recommendations for improvement in mental health services for people with addiction and mental health problems

## Outcomes

(Actual And Expected)

Recommendations implemented or in progress across all Four Pillars

A broader understanding of prevention from the community's perspective; this led to the ensuing 50 community dialogues, which laid the foundation for a major policy document on prevention

Four Pillars Coalition members updated on progress to date across the Four Pillars

A reduction in individual, family, neighbourhood and community harm, a delay in onset of first use, low incidence and prevalence of drug use and an improvement in public health and safety; a blueprint for prevention

More effective outreach to youth leading to an increased awareness of drug prevention

Recommendations to Council supporting informed decision making

An effective methadone program with improved access for users and reduced impact on community from small scale pharmacies

Information and support to Mayor and Council for decision making, responding to the public and advocating to senior governments

Capacity building for, and support from the Four Pillars Coalition of, over 60 organizations for the Four - Pillar Strategy; advancing a concerted discussion on effective policy

Coordinated City responses to proposals for services and facilities

Better information and dialogue on the pros and cons of prohibition and a deeper understanding of effective regulation of controlled substances

Improved services for people with addiction and mental health problems

# 2

## Project Development And Evaluation

Work with partners across the Four Pillars to collaboratively initiate, support or evaluate projects

### Deliverables (Past, Current And Projected)

### Time

	Deliverables (Past, Current And Projected)	Time
Prevention	Collaboration with the project Living in Community: Balancing Perspectives on Vancouver's Sex Industry	2006-07
	Development of a Four Pillars Youth Engagement Strategy for Prevention	2004 - 08
	Development of a Syringe Management Program in partnership with CoV's Engineering Department and VCH	2006 - 08
	Development of the Vancouver School Board's School Aged Youth Prevention Project	2006 - 08
	Development of the Four Pillars Employment Project in partnership with CoV's Equal Employment Opportunity, Human Resources and The Vancouver Agreement	2006 - 08
Treatment	Support for North America's first heroin-assisted treatment trials, NAOMI	2004-05
	Feasibility work for stimulant maintenance treatment	Ongoing
	Support for a long-term residential treatment centre for youth	2002-06
Harm Reduction	Advocacy to federal government to support North America's first legal Supervised Injection Site (SIS)	2000-03
	Advocacy for renewal and expansion of SIS	Ongoing
	Support for decentralization of needle exchange programs (NEPS)	2003-04
	Feasibility work with the Centre for Addiction Research (CARBC) for a Safer Bars Program in Vancouver	2005
	Involvement in the committee for the evaluation of the City-wide Enforcement Team (CET)	2003-04
Enforcement	Support towards the Enhanced Enforcement Strategy	2003-04
	Participation in the Drug Court Advisory committee	Ongoing

## Description of Actions

Develop background documentation and an action plan on sex work in Vancouver and assist with the public consultation process through participation on the steering committee

Initiate ongoing youth friendly dialogues, consultations and a six-month project on prevention and youth engagement in collaboration with CoV's Youth Outreach Team and others

Establish a Syringe Management Program that improves awareness of syringe recovery efforts among the public and drug users, maximizes safe disposal in community settings through placement of recovery boxes in DTES and other neighbourhoods, and collects inappropriately discarded syringes in a timely fashion

Collaborate in a multi-sectoral response including education, health and police in enhancing the prevention infrastructure for school youth, by addressing staff and student education, parent-family education, and school curriculum and policy. Pilot projects and evaluation underway in Tupper and Kitsilano schools

Co-ordinate the planning for a job literacy training and employment model at CoV targeting people in recovery

Work collaboratively with partners to establish NAOMI clinical trials - development permit process, locating appropriate site, meeting with neighbourhood groups etc.

Co-ordinate with researchers on the feasibility of clinical trials for stimulant (crack, cocaine, amphetamines) maintenance

Plan with Pacific Community Resources, VCH and Portage for the development of a long-term youth treatment facility in BC

Provide information and expertise to the Mayor's office for meeting with the Prime Minister's office, the federal Minister of Health, Minister of Justice and Health Canada staff. Work with VCH, the VPD, community groups, drug users and residents to support the establishment of an SIS

Work collaboratively with partners to ensure continuation of the SIS pilot study

Collaborate with community partners and VCH for more, and easily accessible NEPS

Convene meetings with CARBC and city staff focusing on the Safer Bars Program and reducing negative impacts of alcohol in licensed premises

Develop terms of reference for consultancy, review drafts of evaluation and final product with Vancouver Agreement and VPD

Participate in the enhanced enforcement project

Participate in meetings of the Drug Court Advisory Committee and report to City staff and council on major developments

## Outcomes

(Actual And Expected)

An action plan for all levels of government and the community to increase the health and safety of neighbourhoods affected by sex work; protect sex workers

A better informed and engaged youth community and their active participation in developing peer-to-peer strategies on prevention, leading to a reduction in problematic drug use

Safer and cleaner public spaces through less publicly disposed drug paraphernalia

Prevention or reduction of substance use, a delay in onset of first use, and prevention of harmful use among school-aged children and youth

Prevention of relapse among recovering drug users by assisting them in finding paid employment

A reduction in health care and enforcement costs achieved through improvements in individual health, reductions of blood-borne disease infections caused by needle sharing, improvements in public order, and stabilizing heroin users through prescription thereby lowering crime and prostitution levels

Same as above

Establishment of the first long-term youth treatment centre in BC

Successful establishment of SIS. Reduction of overdose deaths, HIV, Hepatitis C and injection-related infections and abscesses, public nuisance and criminal activity among clients at SIS

A well-researched and evidence based program that reduces the harm from injection drug use to individuals and communities

Reduction in blood-borne diseases due to easily accessible NEPS and community acceptance

Feasibility of Safer Bars Program completed

Completion of CET evaluation; knowledge and best practice generated about the strengths and weaknesses of the crackdown on the open drug scene

Coordinated effort to target the infrastructure of the drug trade

Successful drug court established in Vancouver



# 3

## Public Awareness And Education

Foster further public understanding of the complex issues regarding problematic drug use and addiction

### Deliverables *(Past, Current And Projected)*

### Time

Framework for Action Public Consultations	2001
Public Symposium on the prevention of harm from problematic drug use	2003
Fifty Community Dialogues with diverse populations	2004
Public Review Process on the prevention document	2005
Four Pillars Website	Ongoing
Four Pillars Newsletter	Ongoing
Annual Prevention event	2006-08
The Mayor's Four Pillars Coalition meetings 3x/year	2006 - 08
Public dialogue on treatment capacity and limitations	2007
Profile of alternate interventions within the criminal justice system	2007 - 08

## Description of Actions

Hold public consultations with more than 2000 residents of Vancouver through six public forums and over 30 community meetings providing feedback on the Four Pillars document

Hold a multi-stakeholder dialogue over two days to broaden public understanding of the root causes of addiction and strategies for prevention

Conduct a series of dialogues on addiction and prevention with several communities representing different life stages, sexual orientations, ethnicities, vulnerable populations and service providers, inviting input towards the prevention plan

Consult with the public through six special interest group meetings and a forum led by the Mayor to inform the community of the prevention plan and to invite their input

Provide information to the public about Vancouver's drug policy and current affairs through a regularly updated website and respond to requests for resources and information

Publish regular e-newsletter, updating Four Pillars Coalition members and the public on developments across the Four Pillars

Create a cross-sectoral organizing team to develop a program for staging an annual prevention event with written proceedings

Provide a forum on a regular basis for the Mayor and multi-stakeholder community to exchange views, raise profile on relevant issues, address problems, educate and present research and policy developments in the area of problematic drug use

Facilitate a treatment symposium with partners outlining examples of treatment successes in other jurisdictions, identifying key gaps in local treatment strategies and alternate approaches

Organize event that focuses on alternative interventions within the criminal justice system and outcomes from local and international experience

## Outcomes

(Actual And *Expected*)

Council adoption of the Four Pillars Drug Strategy as City's official drug policy

Increased awareness among participants that harmful drug use affects all ages, classes, genders and ethnicities; less stigma; more willingness to find solutions collaboratively

The development of policy in the form of 27 recommendations, along with research and analysis as presented in *Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use*

Same as above

Dissemination of knowledge about the Four Pillars and prevention as seen in the following:  
*Number of visits to the website:*  
51,000 in 2005 and 50,000 in 2006 (to date)

*Number of downloads:*  
14,700 - *Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use*  
8000 - *The Framework for Action;*  
1950 - *Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use: The Short and Sweet Version*

Dissemination of information about Four Pillars Coalition members' work and drug-policy research

A strengthened prevention community of service providers, co-ordinated prevention services and a heightened awareness about prevention

Increased support for the four-pillar approach among the Four Pillars Coalition of over 60 organizations and concerted efforts to further the discussion on effective policy

More informed public discussion on the benefits of drug treatment and its limitations

Broader understanding of opportunities in the criminal justice system and support for implementation of greater array of interventions

# 4

## Innovation Through Guidance and Leadership

Respond to requests from other jurisdictions and represent City of Vancouver at local, regional, provincial, national and international tables focusing on addressing problem substance use

### Deliverables *(Past, Current And Projected)*

### Time

Active involvement in key planning networks and processes locally, regionally, provincially, nationally and internationally

2001 - 08

Provide leadership, evidence-based information, expertise and support to several municipalities and relevant counterparts in other parts of Canada and the world (Appendix 1)

2005  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
Ongoing

## Description of Actions

## Outcomes

(Actual And *Expected*)

### Involved in planning actively with the following:

- Lower Mainland Municipal Association Drug Strategy Task Force
- Drug Court Advisory Committee
- International Harm Reduction Conference Programming Committee
- Supervised Injection Site Steering Committee
- Vancouver Injection Drug User Survey Community Advisory Board
- North American Opiate Medication Initiative (NAOMI) advisory board
- Canadian Community Epidemiological Network on Drug Use
- Provincial Methamphetamine Strategy
- Vancouver Methamphetamine Response Committee
- National Framework For Action to Reduce the Harms From Alcohol and Other Drugs and Substances in Canada
- Vancouver Injection Drug User Survey

The Toronto Drug Strategy.

The Central Okanagan Four Pillars Coalition

The Kamloops Drug Strategy

The Victoria Drug Strategy

Health Canada

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse

International requests for information on the development of municipal drug strategies - the UK, Indonesia, Denmark,

Portland Oregon, Washington State USA, New Zealand, and others

Representation and engagement of City of Vancouver at multiple levels

A locally, regionally, provincially and federally co-ordinated approach leading towards more robust and cohesive drug policies

### Appendix 1

#### Examples of speaking requests

Red Deer Regional Coalition on Substance Use	Red Deer, Alberta	2006
National Drug Policy Conference	Buenos Aries, Argentina	2006
Voices of Substance Conference	Victoria BC	2006
4 Health 4 Wellness Conference	Banff	2006
S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Community Services	Vancouver	2005-6
Simon Fraser University, Psychology Department, Public Policy Program	Vancouver	2003,04,05,06
Canadian Criminal Justice Congress	Calgary	2005
University of British Columbia (School of Social Work, Community and Regional Planning, Trek Program	Vancouver	2005
The Council of Youth Officers of Ontario	Niagara Falls	2005
Beyond Drug Prohibition: A Public Health Approach, WOSK Centre for Dialogue		2005
Central Okanagan Four Pillars Coalition Meeting	Kelowna	2005
Yukon Drug Summit	Whitehorse	2005
Canadian Criminal Justice Conference	Vancouver	2004
Corrections Canada Conference	Charlottetown	2004
Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force	Toronto	2003
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police	Toronto	2002
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse Health and Enforcement Conference	Montreal	2002
Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse Annual Meeting	Ottawa	2001

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