

MOTION ON NOTICE

8. 2008 BCSC 661err1 PHS Community Services Society v. Attorney General of Canada

MOVER: Councillor Raymond Louie
SECONDER: Councillor Heather Deal

WHEREAS Insite, the Supervised Injection Site, is a critical element of the city's Four Pillars drug policy and crime reduction strategy, which emphasizes prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction; and

WHEREAS the federal government has refused to provide a long-term extension to Insite's research exemption from federal drug laws despite overwhelming scientific evidence of its benefits; and

WHEREAS the Portland Hotel Society Community Services (PHS) has won an important Supreme Court of British Columbia ruling that struck down sections of Canada's drug laws as unconstitutional and gave Insite an exemption to remain open until the laws are brought into line with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

WHEREAS the federal government has given notice of its intention to appeal the decision and has publicly attacked the Insite program and the medical professionals operating it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct the City's legal department to apply for intervenor status in the federal government's appeal of the Supreme Court of British Columbia decision, in support of the Portland Hotel Society Community Services (PHS) and the Attorney General of British Columbia to defend the supervised injection element of the city's drug policy.

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