



DRUG PREVENTION NETWORK OF CANADA

NGO in Special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Oct. 17th, 2022

Dear Editor,

Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addiction has proposed a regulated supply of free drugs to addicts, hopefully to stem the tide of deaths by drug overdose (Toronto Star, September 29, 2022).

Providing drugs freely to addicts does more harm than good. It does not deal with the main driving force for their addiction such as poverty, mental and physical illness which causes despair and hopelessness. They lose their human dignity, become malnourished, and have a pervasive lack of self-esteem, and become homeless as a result of their continued drug use. According to evidence provided to the Alberta Select Special Committee by Michael Shellenberger, U.S. author of the book, San Fransicko, the practice of Safe Supply is “a bizarre medical experiment helping homeless drug addicts use drugs which is handing a loaded gun to a “suicidal person”.

This approach shows a severe lack of understanding of how an addiction controls a person’s brain. The addicted brain is always in search of more drugs to feed it’s insatiable appetite and will not make the rational decision to wait for a safe supply, but will continue to use additional illicit drugs to supplement the government supply of drugs.

Rather than offering free drugs, the government should be offering free abstinence-based treatment, that deals with the root cause of the addiction, followed by long term supportive recovery.

Chuck Doucette
President
Drug Prevention Network of Canada

1695 – 53A Street, Delta, BC V4M 3G3

Telephone: 604-943-3496

www.dpnoc.org • Email exec@dpnoc.org