

NEEDLE EXCHANGE INCREASES H.I.V.

"...Needle-exchange appears to be nothing more than a facilitator for drug abuse..."

(ONDCP:1998)

- *Vancouver has the largest Needle Exchange Program (NEP) in North America.* The Vancouver NEP distributed approx. 3 million needles last year. A 1997 study of the city's intravenous drug users, 92% of whom used the NEP, found that 40% of HIV-positive addicts had lent their used syringes, and 39% of HIV-negative addicts had borrowed a used syringe. (SOURCE: STRATHDEE et al: AIDS II, 1997 AND US OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, 1998)
- Needle Exchange Programs (NEP), however well meaning, do not work. In fact, in Vancouver, the HIV rate among NEP participants is *actually higher* than the HIV rate among injecting drug users who do not participate. These findings are similar throughout the world. Addicts in the Montreal NEP become HIV-infected at twice the rate of addicts not in the program. (AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY)
- Nowhere has tolerance toward injecting drug addicts helped them. It only encourages the spread of more needles for more kinds of drugs, stimulants and hallucinogens. In fact, the #1 injected drug is not heroin but cocaine because injecting brings a quicker high and retards withdrawal. (NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON DRUG ABUSE)

THE REAL ISSUE...
WHY MUST CANADIANS PAY
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAXES TO
FUND NEP'S THAT HAVE BEEN
PROVEN TO INCREASE CRIME,
DISEASE AND ADDICTION?

The Cost of Drug Abuse to Society is Enormous

- Highest rates of property crime in Vancouver are within 2 blocks of the NEP and a 24-hour drug market and open injection site operate immediately adjacent to the Needle-Exchange.

Maybe More Canadians Should Have a Say in These Decisions!

IDEAS

INTERNATIONAL DRUG EDUCATION
& AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

presented by INTERNATIONAL DRUG EDUCATION & AWARENESS SOCIETY

in partnership with DRUG FREE AMERICA FOUNDATION INC. AND DRUG PREVENTION NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS

May 1 to May 3, 2002
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

With the use of statistical and documented evidence, IDEAS - 2002, the first of its kind in Canada, is committed to bringing honesty to the issue of tolerance for substance abuse.

IDEAS has invited Swedish, Swiss, U.S., Canadian and other world-leading medical, legal and police experts with impeccable credentials and experience in the prevention, treatment, law enforcement and harm reduction of illicit drugs. **For three days, they will meet with Canadians of influence in a conference intended to examine Canada's permissive drug policies.**

If you have been invited, please reply Early.

If you are interested, please refer online at www.ideas-canada.org