

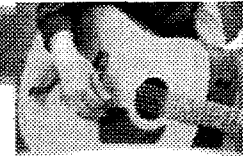
CITY OF VANCOUVER

Downtown Eastside
REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Community Health



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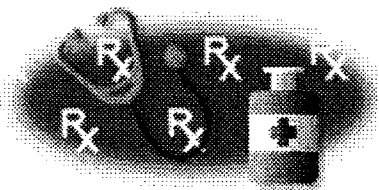
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The Downtown Eastside is grappling with a number of serious health issues. Many types of diseases and illnesses, such as **HIV and AIDS, hepatitis, pneumonia, alcoholism and drug addiction** occur more often in this neighbourhood than in other communities.

The cost to society is more than just the price of the health services or social services needed to address these issues. The cost also includes human suffering and reduced human potential.

The City and its partners are examining how to introduce more holistic approaches to improving community health. We are particularly interested in more comprehensive strategies that can help us, as a society, better deal with **drug use**.



Reports

Health Care

Did You Know?

**Vancouver/Richmond
Health Board
Announces
Expanded Sobering
and Detox
Services for the
Region**

On Friday, February 18, 2000, the Vancouver / Richmond Health Board announced a regional plan for expanded and improved sobering and detox services for managing alcohol and drug addictions.

These services will be housed in a Sobering Centre that will be located in the Downtown Eastside. The sobering and detox services provided will have a public health focus rather than a criminal justice approach. Services will include a full range of support such as detoxification,

Proposal, Development Permit Board:

To permit interior and exterior alterations and the change of use of a portion of this existing wholesale building to a Health Care Office (approximately 2,920 square feet) and a Social Service (Resource) Centre (approximately 5,840 square feet) to develop a resource centre with associated health services for people addicted to drugs.

Drugs & Alcohol

✱ Provincial Liquor License Regulations - Bill 80 Administrative Report (Jul. 99) *

✱ Rice wine: Memo to Council (Jul. 1999)

✱ Proposed Provincial Liquor License Regulations - City Response (Apr. 99)

✱ Proposed Provincial Liquor License Regulations - City Response (Apr. 99)

✱ Vancouver Liquor Licensing Commission: Report to Council: (Mar. 99)

✓ ✱ Reports for Public Discussion 3: Background Paper on Drug Treatment Needs in Vancouver (Jul. 98)

* Section "V. EFFECT ON SROs" of Bill 80 addresses the relationship between pubs and SRO housing.

Vancouver's Coalition on Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment

A coalition of Vancouver organizations, associations and companies, all working together to create a safer city. The Coalition's primary purpose is to reduce crime, particularly property crime, and to bring more effective drug and alcohol treatment to Vancouver.

✱ Mayor, Urban Safety Commission and Police Chief join with the community to reduce crime and bring more effective drug and alcohol treatment to Vancouver.

✱ News Release: Federal Government Announces \$5 million Grant for Downtown Eastside Crime Prevention Program (Feb. 25, 1999)

✱ News Release: Mayor and Council Add Police Officers to Downtown Eastside Area (Oct. 22, 1998)

treatment, and rehabilitation for people wishing to become abstinent. There will also be measures in place to reduce harm in individuals who continue to use alcohol or drugs.

The Sobering Centre will also be used as an entry point and referral centre for services distributed throughout the region. It will open as soon as a suitable building can be found and renovated. The location will be the subject of community consultation.

For further information, please call Hardeep Dhaliwal, V/RHB Communications, at 788-2480.

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Vancouver-Richmond Health Board Fighting Disease in Downtown Eastside***Influenza and Pneumonia:***

The Board is working in the Downtown Eastside to immunize residents against influenza and pneumonia. With the help of nurses and volunteers, nearly 9,000 people were vaccinated in December 1999. This is the first time in Canada that the pneumococcal vaccine

has been distributed en masse.

Hepatitis A:

In Vancouver, the Hepatitis A infection is more than four times the national average. To stem the spread the Board is initiating a large-scale immunization program in the Downtown Eastside.

Immunization teams in single-room occupancy hotels, clinics and agencies are expected to reach 8,000 people.

Syphilis:

There has been a marked increase in the number of people contracting syphilis in B.C. in the past two years. To stop it from spreading further, a treatment campaign will be provided by street nurses, clinics and other public health offices at several sites in the Lower Mainland from January 24-28, 2000. During this week a Syphilis Information Line has been set up to answer questions from the public (660-6768).

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Comments or questions? You can send us [e-mail](#).

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