

Attention: VANDU members who will be attending the meeting in Strathcona Community Centre (2nd floor activity room) on Wednesday Jan. 12 at 12 noon:

Here is a list of concerns that have been identified by the community. Please read through them and do some brainstorming around how users and the Resource Centre can help. I'm sorry I can't attend – I have to meet with the person who is facilitating the meeting tomorrow morning.

Susann (please call if any questions)

Other issues that came up were reiterated in the second set of community consultations and are included in the list below. The second set of consultations differs mainly in respect to the fact that there is now a specific location for the RC.

- Community felt there was inadequate consultation around the location of the RC
- The site is too close to the Lord Strathcona Elementary School and daycare centers.
- The RC should have been placed in an existing facility.
- There is a need for more ongoing communication between the community and the VRHB around these types of issues.
- There needs to be an overall plan for harm reduction and services so that the RC has other resources supporting it.
- The RC cannot function properly without safe injection sites and legally prescribed drugs.
- There is fear that the RC will attract more dealers and users to the area than there already are.
- There is fear that people who live outside the area will come here for the services.
- Strathcona has experienced a change over the past year as a result of police activities in the Downtown Eastside resulting in more users and dealers in the neighbourhood and around the school.
- Policing in the area is not able to keep up with the increased problems.
- The hours of operation of the RC (originally stated to be from 8 pm through until 12 noon the next day) will have addicts leaving the center at times when children may be going to and from school. Some groups feel the RC should be open 24 hours while others (DEYAS) feel that it should not be open at night.
- There is a fear that users will go in and out of the RC on a frequent basis to buy drugs and use them.
- Discarded needles are a major problem in and around Strathcona Elementary School.

- There need to be clear policies around the issue of youth who want to use the Resource Centre.
- There is no existing Society that could properly manage the RC
- All groups consulted expressed support for the concept of a Resource Centre with some having reservations about location
- The RC is displacing viable businesses in the area.
- The RC is across the street from Mental Health services and will expose a vulnerable population to people who may take advantage or abuse them.