

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

**IF YOU BELIEVE THAT HARM  
REDUCTION SAVES LIVES AND SAVES  
MONEY THEN THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN  
DO!**

**WRITE TO YOUR MLA AND YOUR MP  
AND TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL**

**IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO IS YOUR  
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE WE  
HAVE MAILING ADDRESSES, E-MAIL  
LISTS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS.**

**IF YOU ARE STILL NOT QUITE SURE  
THAT FULL HARM REDUCTION IS THE  
ONLY SANE CANADIAN ANSWER TO  
DRUG ADDICTION THEN CALL US AND  
WE WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE OUR  
MEMBERS COME AND SPEAK TO YOUR  
GROUP OR TAKE YOU ON A WALKING  
TOUR**

**WE ARE VANDU**

**PHONE (604) 683-8595**

*DID YOU KNOW.....*

**DRUG ADDICTION IS THE CAUSE OF 80% OF THE PROPERTY CRIMES.**

**DRUG ADDICTION COSTS BILLIONS OF HEALTH DOLLARS AND STILL DEADLY AND EXPENSIVE. EPIDEMICS ARE RAGING THROUGHOUT THE ADDICTED POPULATION AND BEYOND.**

**DRUG ADDICTION IS NEITHER STOPPED OR REDUCE BY HIRING MORE POLICE. THIS SIMPLY MOVES IT INTO OTHER COMMUNITIES SO THAT THE AVERAGE AGE OF ADDICTION IS GETTING YOUNGER EACH YEAR.**

**DRUG ADDICTION DOES NOT GO AWAY BY COURT ACTION AND IMPRISONMENT BUT ONLY INCREASES THE RANGE AND EXTENT OF DISEASES BROUGHT IN TO OVERCROWDED PRISONS BY VERY SICK PEOPLE.**

**DRUG ADDICTION IS NOT A CHOICE IT IS A HEALTH PROBLEM AND THERE ARE REAL SOLUTIONS THAT SAVE MONEY AND LIVES!**

The War on Drugs being carried out in the United States has been proven to be a complete and utter failure. Drug Addiction is on the increase, property crime and even violence is rising, more and more expensive prisons are being built and filled to overflowing without and appreciable reduction in the rate of addiction, drug related death and disease and a steady rise in the number of youth and children becoming addicted.

Some countries in Europe have adopted a much different approach to this very destructive problem. Switzerland, Germany and England have experimented with real Harm reduction programs. Some mistakes were made at the beginning but they learned through trial and error. It is paying off far beyond their expectations

**Hannes Herrmann** is from Basle Switzerland where he works for the Ministry of Justice as the Drug Policy Co-ordinator for the City. **There he is responsible for the establishment and direction of the "four pillars" of drug policy, which includes heroin maintenance**

**Werner Schneider** is the Drug Policy Co-ordinator for the City of Frankfurt Germany. Seven years ago he successfully lobbied the City Government to create a local department of drug policy. He was appointed the director and **has introduced such innovative programs as the safe injection rooms which have now successfully existed for four years.**

**Andrew Bennett** is the director of HIT in Merseyside, Liverpool in England. HIT was formerly called the Mersey Drug Training And Information Centre and was established in 1985. **The organization and the Merseyside model have gained an international reputation for developing, advocating and implementing strategies that reduce harm to drug users and the community.**

These are just a very few of the people who had the courage to try a different approach to combatting the destruction of drug addiction

and the results have been amazing. **Crime, disease and death have dropped dramatically in all Cities that have implemented real Harm Reduction programs.**

**It is estimated that for every dollar spent on effective Harm Reduction programs governments saved \$7.00.**

**Safe fixing sites** would mean a dramatic reduction in the needles and used rigs left on the streets. Overdose deaths would be almost eliminated because users would be monitored by trained peers and personnel. Users would have access to information, education and referrals as well as clean materials which would contain and reduce the devastating diseases that are presently such a burden on our health care. They would have access to some of the support systems not available on the streets if they wish to try and fight their addictions. **Safe fixing sites mean safe communities.**

**Heroin Maintenance** programs remove the reasons to commit crimes to support their habits. They would also have access to “clean” controlled drugs that will eliminate the illnesses caused by dirty and dangerous drugs.

These programs coupled with a well run **Methadone program** that is uniform in policy and not punitive to users are the first steps to **reclaiming our communities** and our people from the destruction of Drug addiction.

The police and politicians have nothing to gain and much to lose from implementing real drug reform. **It is up to you and us. We can save lives - save money - save communities if the public demands it.**

**Together we can break the back of international traffickers growing rich on the misery that drugs cause. The users are victims just like the communities in which they live.**