

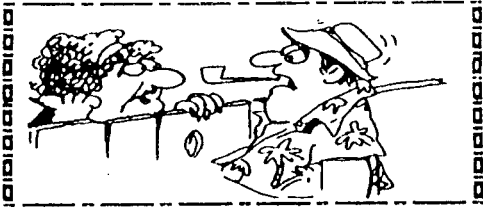
NOT IN MY EQUITY BACKYARD

**ARE YOU TIRED OF FINDING HOOKERS, NEEDLES
AND USED CONDOMS ON YOUR DOORSTEP? DO
YOU WISH ALL THE DRUG ADDICTS WOULD JUST
GO AWAY?**

**WELL, STOP WISHING 'CAUSE
IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN!**

**IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE BETWEEN FOUR AND EIGHT
THOUSAND DRUG ADDICTED PEOPLE IN VANCOUVER ALONE.
SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS TO INCREASE THE POLICE FORCE HAS
INCREASED YOUR TAXES BUT HAS NOT STOPPED ONE PERSON
FROM TAKING DRUGS. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT THE
POLICE ACTIVITY AROUND MAIN AND HASTINGS IS PUSHING
MORE AND MORE SICK AND ADDICTED PEOPLE INTO YOUR
AREA.**

SO WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?



THE FIRST THING TO DO IS FORGET ALL YOU EVER KNEW ABOUT DRUG ADDICTION SINCE MOST OF IT IS EITHER MYTH OR MISTAKE.

◆ **DRUG ADDICTION IS NOT A CHOICE - IT IS A HEALTH PROBLEM.** *Even the experts do not know why some people are prone to addiction while others can experiment and walk away. Would any person really choose to risk their lives from disease and overdose, go without food, commit crimes, sell everything they own, betray family, friends and themselves or feel sick most of the time? Of course not.*

◆ **MOST DRUG USERS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO PROPER TREATMENT.** *There are long waits for even the simplest treatments such as detox or recovery houses. Programs like Methadone are badly managed and often increase the problems because of unrealistic goals meant to please health experts rather than treat drug users. Many agencies do not even permit drug users on the premises to go to the bathroom or have a hot meal.*

◆ **POLICE CAN NOT REDUCE OR EVEN CONTROL THE DRUG PROBLEM.** *Vancouver now has the largest police force, per capita, in the entire country. No matter how brutal they are to drug users; no matter how many expensive gadgets they lobby for; no matter what media coverage they employ the police can not reduce the drug problem because it is not a criminal issue but a health issue. Their efforts only create more problems that are pushed into other neighbourhoods.*

COMPREHENSIVE HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS WORKED SO WELL IN EUROPEAN CITIES THAT THEY WERE ADOPTED AS NATIONAL POLICIES. *The establishment of safe fixing sites, heroin maintenance, low threshold methadone distribution and proper health treatment saved so many lives and so much money in countries like Germany, Switzerland and England that they were adopted as National policies. The crime rates dropped so dramatically that Frankfurt's Chief of Police said he would not have believed it if he had not seen it himself.*

WE DO NOT HAVE REAL HARM REDUCTION IN VANCOUVER YET BUT WE CAN BEGIN THE FIRST STEPS. *A Resource Centre for drug users is planned for the corner of Princess and Powell Streets. The Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users has lobbied for the development of this centre for almost two years. The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board approved it and a site search was begun. The present location was chosen because no one challenged the Gastown and Chinatown business interests when they refused to allow it in their areas although the majority of drug users were there. They have even provided private funds to the city police for special favours.*

HOW WILL A RESOURCE CENTRE HELP THE STRATHCONA RESIDENTS? *At the present time drug users are forced to wander the streets, shelter in doorways and use alleys for bathrooms. A resource Centre will provide them with a warm place to go. A chance to get a shower, wash clothes and get a hot meal. They will also have access to information and health services. There will be doctors and nurses on staff and many of the users will be employed so that they will not have to commit crimes to deal with their habits.*

WON'T THE RESOURCE CENTRE DRAW USERS FROM ALL OVER AND WE WILL HAVE MORE THAN EVER IN THE AREA?. *Since they will not be permitted to use drugs on site it will not lure addicts from other areas that don't already come here. It will improve the quality of life for the men and women, boys and girls who have become trapped in this area by poverty and drug addiction.*

◆ **WON'T A RESOURCE CENTRE DRAW THE DEALERS?** *The real dealers do not come into this area. The "dealers" shown to you by the police and media are actually nothing more than Users selling to users. They spend long hours on the streets not making money but selling enough to keep some of it for their next fix so that they do not have to commit thefts to deal with their habits. Commercial dealers and traffickers do not go to the users. It is the other way around and when they lose too much to the police actions against the street sellers they just set up somewhere else and the Users have to follow. That is why the drug problem is spreading into other neighbourhoods.*

◆ **THE VANCOUVER AREA NETWORK OF DRUG USERS (VANDU) IS COMMITTED TO SAVING LIVES, SAVING MONEY AND SAVING COMMUNITIES.** *We have more than 450 members who have become actively involved in their community. The majority of them live in this area. They are sons, daughters, fathers, mothers nieces, nephews and your neighbours. Their backgrounds are as diverse as your own. Some are highly educated while others are illiterate. Some come from loving homes and others have known unspeakably tragic childhoods. Most of them must face the reality of their drug addiction every day while a few are lost in the confused world of mental illness. Some are mean and some are kind. They have the same hopes and dreams that you do. VANDU is growing daily and the members realize that if they are to expect co-operation from their community they must also accept responsibility. They do community clean up, outreach work and are often guest speakers for organizations wishing to understand the options and alternatives that are possible in dealing with the drug problem.. They live in this community and they are committed to making it better with your co-operation.*

WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY.

VANCOUVER AREA NETWORK OF DRUG USERS

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