Community Support for SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION
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Appendices (letters of support, media coverage, Op-eds, memorials)
The yes2scs campaign is made up of health care professionals, researchers, potential service users, community activists and social workers. We are committed to building community support for Supervised Consumption Services (SCS), promoting positive perceptions of people who use drugs and equity in health and social services, and supporting evidence-based drug policies.

From Sept 2013 — Nov 2016, we have worked together using a committee model aimed at ongoing collaboration and relationship-building between people with extensive experience in public policy, research, and illicit drug and service use.

Peer Advisory Committee

The Peer Advisory Committee is made up of potential service users (‘peer’ is used to describe individuals who work with others with comparable experience and knowledge of drug use). Recognizing the important role of service users in the design and delivery of services, yes2scs has prioritized working with and supporting organizations of people who use illicit drugs. The PAC liaises with the steering committee as we determine and advocate for the most suitable models for SCS in Victoria. The PAC also plays a key role in the campaign’s public education about supervised consumption and harm reduction.

Steering Committee

The steering committee is our central decision-making body, with representatives from each committee, and responsible for overseeing advocacy, research and applications for federal exemption, negotiations with public bodies, media, and public education.
Public Forums

June 17, 2015
First Metropolitan Church
100 participants

From left: Perry Kendall, Leslie McBain, Donavan Mahoney, Sheldon Fox & Colin Cayer at City Hall Antechamber “The Time is Now” forum

February 24, 2016
City Hall Antechamber
160 participants

Panelists and community during the question and answer period at “The Time is Now” forum at the city hall Antechamber
Between May 2014 and August 2016, yes2scs offered presentations on supervised consumption services to local organizations. Presentations were developed and presented in collaboration between people with lived experience of drug use and researchers and advocates for improved services.

The presentations offered an opportunity for members of local organizations to learn and ask questions about how supervised consumption services work, what different models of SCS look like, and evidence about the effectiveness of these services in addressing the personal and community impacts of drug use in the context of prohibition and the war on drugs.

### Community Organizations Yes2Scs Presented To:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI)</td>
<td>April 15, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID)</td>
<td>April 24, 2014</td>
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<td>Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG)</td>
<td>May 7, 2014</td>
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<td>PEERS</td>
<td>September, 2014</td>
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<td>Community Action Plan on Discrimination (CAP-D)</td>
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<td>Unitarian Church</td>
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<td>Vancouver Island Persons with AIDS Society (VIPAS)</td>
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<td>The Umbrella Society</td>
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<td>Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)</td>
<td>March 31, 2016</td>
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<td>Vancouver Island Health Authority Board of Directors</td>
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<td>Christ Church Cathedral</td>
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<td>Fernwood Neighborhood Association</td>
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<td>North Park Neighborhood Association</td>
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Local Organization Support

Logo Campaign

Through our community forums and presentations we were able to reach out to local organizations and asked if they would provide their organizations logo as a show of support for Supervised Consumption Services in Victoria, as you can see our community says Yes2SCS. These are some of the local organizations who were able to lend their logo in support. Yes2SCS would like to thank them for their continued support throughout the campaign.
Between June 2014 and August 2016, Yes2SCS reached out to residents of Victoria for expressions of support. The “I support” photo campaign demonstrated that there are as many reasons to support supervised consumption services in Victoria as there is variety in those who support the services. This is a selection of the photos we collected throughout the campaign and along the way.
“I support YES2SCS because...it works!”

“I support YES2SCS because...every life has value.”

“I support YES2SCS because...everybody deserves access to health care.”

“I Support”
Appendices

1. Letters of support (community organizations in Victoria)

2. Consultations with community members (work done prior to 2014)
   - Beddow Centre: summary of consultations (Dec 22 2010)
   - Stakeholder Survey (from Fischer, B. & Allard, C., 2007)

3. Professional and institutional support for supervised consumption services
   (from public record)
   - Health Officers Council of BC
   - College of Registered Nurses; Canadian Nursing Association
   - Thirteen years of local recommendations for SCS in Victoria
   - Statements of support from Mayor and city councillors

4. Media coverage and Op-eds
June 22, 2016

Dear Friends

I write to call for your support of Yes2SCS (Yes to Supervised Consumption Sites) here in Victoria. As we continue to support those who are caught in the vicious cycle of drugs, a safe consumption site must be a integral part of our community health program.

I encourage all Anglicans to commit to being part of the healing processes needed in our society. Safe consumption sites are an important part of the healing necessary for our entire community. I encourage you to read the materials on the Yes2SCS website - http://www.yes2scs.ca/resources/10-years-of-recommendations-for-scs/. We are speaking about all of us who live in this city and our health and wellbeing as a community.

It is my hope that what we are seeing in this plan will soon become an integral part of a much larger response to reduce harm across our community. I am asking Anglican parishes in the Greater Victoria area to be involved in supporting this important work.

In Christ,

[Signature]

Logan
Ics
February 29, 2016

To whom it may concern:

We are writing on behalf of Peers Victoria Resources Society (Peers) to express our support for a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) in Victoria BC.

Peers is an organization of sex workers for sex workers, providing daytime drop-in space, health and housing support workers, a small business training program as well as a night outreach program, a bad date report, and a monthly indoor workers group.

Peers has always been committed to supporting the dignity, health, and safety of all individuals engaged in the sex trade, including people who use illicit drugs. Peers believes that a SCS would provide an essential service for those using illicit substances by reducing overdose deaths and disease transmission.

Peers fully supports the goals of the Yes2SCS campaign and the long-overdue implementation of a SCS in Victoria. This site is a critical piece of infrastructure that is currently missing, to the detriment of our community, including individuals supported by Peers.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Peers Board of Directors

[Signature]

Brad Weldon, Co-Chair
June 08, 2015

It is our pleasure to write a letter in complete support of supervised consumption services in Victoria as proposed by YES2SCS.

As an anti-violence organization our values and ethics are in alignment with those proposed by the YES2SCS campaign. AVP believes that everyone deserves safe access to health care regardless of their identity or intersections. As an organization which seeks to reduce harm in our communities, we at AVP are in full support of YES2SCS. AVP believes in reducing harm as much as possible, cultivating safer spaces and ensuring equal access to harm reduction resources for all folks.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the YES2SCS as they seek support and funding. We at AVP believe that communities where harm, stigma and inequality are reduced, are healthier and more positive communities. With the implementation of supervised consumption services within Victoria, the Victoria community at large will move towards becoming a healthier and more equal community where everyone's lives are respected and valued.

In Solidarity,

Anti.Violence.Project Team
June 28, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Moms Stop the Harm (MSTH) unequivocally endorses the proposal to create at least one Supervised Injection Site (SIS) in the City of Victoria, as well as sites across the province of B.C. The Moms have all lost a child to drug overdose. Within our mandate is saving the lives of drug users by the use of SISs across Canada, because, as we say, a dead drug user will never recover.

SISs are a reasonable and humane response to the opioid overdose epidemic in B.C. and across Canada. Funds must be appropriated for the creation of SISs; C2 must be repealed to remove barriers to the creation of the sites.

Leslie McBain

Founding Member

for Moms Stop the Harm

250 629 6490
April 2016

Re: support for the immediate establishment of Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) in the City of Victoria

To whom it may concern;

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS) is deeply supportive of the need for the immediate establishment of Supervised Consumption Services in the City of Victoria. For too long TAPS legal advocates have served clients with serious, life-threatening addictions issues who report having no choice but to use in unsafe environments where overdoses are a common occurrence.

The fact is SCS save lives. SCS gives people a safer place to use drugs, while providing an opportunity to connect with health and social service providers, onsite first aid and nursing care, while building and strengthening essential relationships with outreach workers to support individuals in accessing housing, withdrawal management, and recovery services.

For decades researchers and national and international health bodies have called for the implementation of harm reduction based practices. Evidence shows that supervised consumption services reduce the harms associated with drug use and improve the quality of life for all in our communities. SCS reduce the risk of death by overdose, decrease needle sharing, and reduce the transmission of blood borne illnesses such as HIV (AIDS) and HCV (Hep-C). SCS also promote increased access to, and use of, withdrawal management services as well as other vital health based support services. SCS save lives, promote health, and reduce the costs associated with inappropriate uses of police and emergency services to address the harms associated with illicit drug use in the context of poverty.

TAPS calls on the Province of British Columbia to follow the declaration of a public health emergency in response to the alarming rates of preventable overdose deaths with adequate funding to establish sufficiently resourced supervised consumption services in communities across the province. Action must be immediate, effective and include safer spaces for people who are at risk of overdose.

Supported by:
The Law Foundation of British Columbia, United Way of Greater Victoria, Province of British Columbia, The Provincial Employees Community Services Fund, and other generous donors.
Further, TAPS supports the repeal of Bill C-2 as it discriminates against people who use drugs by creating barriers to accessing lifesaving health services. We ask that you support the repeal of this bill and call on the Federal Government to act immediately.

The board, staff and volunteers at Together Against Poverty Society believe access to safe and dignified health care is a right for ALL people and support moving forward in establishing SCS in Victoria, BC on unceded Coast and Straits Salish Territories.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kelly Newhook
Executive Director, TAPS
September 13, 2015

Dear Bruce and Heather,

We are writing to confirm the unanimous support of the Board of Our Place Society for your campaign aimed at the establishing of supervised consumption services in the greater Victoria area.

Our Board appreciated your presentation about the YES2SCS campaign, its objectives, the principles behind it and the need to build broad community support for this important initiative.

Following the presentation, the Board had a comprehensive discussion and we base our support for your initiative on some key elements of that discussion, namely:

- We support this initiative as an important step within the context of a broader four pillars approach. The four pillars approach to drug addiction as first implemented in Europe in the 1990’s is based on four principles:
  - harm reduction
  - prevention
  - treatment
  - enforcement

- It is critical to overall success that the community embraces and works towards the attainment of all elements of the 4 pillars approach.

- The principles of harm reduction require that we do no harm to those suffering from substance addiction, and that we focus on the harm caused by problematic substance use, rather than substance use per se. The OPS Board supports these principles in advocating for safe consumption sites.

- We also support this initiative in the spirit of a true sense of urgency. It is time to take action in our community and to turn the discussion away from vilification and towards compassion for those facing a myriad of problems associated with the complexities of addiction such as poverty, homelessness and a variety of mental health issues, to name a few.

- We can learn from the success and challenges experienced in other communities within the country and indeed around the world.

We look forward to the success of your campaign and are proud to provide our support.

Sincerely,

Susan Haddon,
Chair, Our Place Society
June 23, 2016

Yes2SCS Campaign

Re: Letter of Support and Positive Living BC Logo in Support of the Yes2SCS Campaign

Dear Campaign Organizer,

I write on behalf and at the behest of the Board of Directors of the Positive Living Society of British Columbia, a member-controlled charitable society run by and for its more than 5,700 members of record, each of whom (including all directors) is a person living with HIV.

The purpose of this letter is to formally support the current Yes2SCS campaign and authorize the use of the Positive Living BC logo on your campaign website. Please contact either Adam Reibin (adamr@positivelivinbc.org) or Leah Giesbrecht (leahg@positivelivingbc.org) for a copy of the digital Positive Living BC logo.

Positive Living BC has a long history of supporting harm-reduction policies and campaigns. In fact, we were the first ever AIDS service organization to include Positive Prevention (encouraging our members to adopt healthy behavior and actively preventing the spread of HIV from them personally) by utilizing harm-reduction supports and services. We have been long-time supporters of Insite and the Dr. Peter Centre’s supervised consumption sites as well as allies with the BC Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health and the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV’s fight to expand harm-reduction programs and services here in Vancouver. We are delighted to support the expansion of harm-reduction services, including supervised consumption sites, specifically in Victoria and throughout the Province of British Columbia.

Thank you for your effort on this campaign.

Sincerely yours,

Valerie Nicholson
Chairperson
Dear YES2SCS,

The University of Victoria’s Student Society Women’s Centre collective and has met and discussed supporting the YES2SCS campaign. We are committed to social justice and public health and we believe regardless of one’s financial, housing, or health status, access to safe and dignified health care is a right for all persons. We are committed to building community support for Supervised Consumption Services (SCS), promoting positive perceptions of people who use drugs and equity in health and social services and evidenced-based drug policies. We are excited extend our support to services that do not shame its constituents and offer the community positive harm reduction support.

We would love to share our logo with you and publicly acknowledge our support for this campaign. Thank you for all the work that you do in the community and we look forward to hearing from you.

In Solidarity,

The UVSS Women’s Centre Collective
2. Consultations with community members - work done prior to 2014

Beddow Centre: summary of consultations (Dec 22 2010)
The Victoria Harm Reduction Resource Centre Society, also known as The Beddow Centre, was a society run by and for people who use illicit drugs. The Beddow Centre aimed to close the gap in health care services for the most marginalized populations in Victoria by offering harm reduction information and resources, and envisioning a space in which people who use drugs can access dignified, practical health supports in the community.

On December 22, 2010, the Beddow Centre hosted a large community dinner for approximately 60 people who identify as people who use drugs in our community. The purpose of this meeting was to begin community dialogue about the development of a peer-run supervised consumption service. The interviews were informal and the questions were open ended. The interview process consisted of a volunteer reading out questions to a respondent and recording their answers by hand. 28 people in total were interviewed.

Concerns about services:
- Primary concerns were about police harassment and surveillance in the proximity of the service (10)
- Secondary concerns included the collection of personal data at the centre (5), and accessible location the centre in relation to public transportation and on-foot access.

Forms of services that should be offered:
- Space for safe consumption (14)
- Medical staff (nurses) and healthcare (i.e. testing or foot care) (13)
- Quite space and privacy, place to relax, sleeping area (9)
- Councillors for support, counselling for those who want to quit and information on detox (9)
- Clean supplies (8)
- Up to date information on bad dope (including peer education), how to taste difference, how to use drugs safely and OD"ing (8)
- Open 24/7 (7)
- Clean environment (5)
- Confidentiality, honesty, integrity and trust (3)
- Security (3)
- Testing for bad dope (2)
- Safety (2)
- Non-judgemental support (3)
- Open for housed and un-housed (2)
- Lockers (2)
- Place for animals (2)
- Food/drink (2)
- Blankets/clothes (1)
- Warm and welcoming (1)
- Services that are available to everyone else in the community (1)
- Doesn"t look like a jail (1)
- People working have time to listen (1)
- No police involvement (1)
- Pain management (1)
• Place to do activities (1)  
• Information on rights (1)  
• Washrooms (1)  
• Support group (1)  
• People who are working know when to call medical professionals or 911 (1)  
• Scales for dosage and weighing (1)  
• Indoor tobacco and smoking room (1)

Location:  
- On transportation routes, central Victoria, downtown core (13)  
- Away from schools (5)  
- More than one location, rotate (4)  
- Close to facilities for homeless, where drug users are (4)  
- Away from residential (3)  
- Rock Bay outer limit, lots of stuff moving towards Rock Bay (2)  
- Not in downtown (1)  
- Out in the boonies (1)  
- Concern about creating a crime hub around centre (1)  
- Not right where all the traffic is (1)  
- In a high rise- regulate people coming in (1)  
- Doesn“t matter if it is by a school/residential if it is run properly (1)

Who should be involved:  
- People who use drugs, people who are former drug users, people with experience should be involved (20)  
- People who understand us, committed to help (10)  
- Nurses/medical staff/health professionals (7)  
- Anyone who wants to be involved, inclusive space, mix of drug users/non-drug users (8)  
- Past/present drug users make up the board (5),  
- Only people who use/used drugs vote (2), peer-run (2)  
- Councillors (4), peer councillors (1)  
- Need to recognize the division between drug using community (1)  
- People who use drugs need to be straight when they work/no drug dealing at work (1)  
- Concern that some people start as allies and turn into superiors (1)  
- People who are supporting drug users need to be clear in their role (1)  
- Need for people to show up at meetings (1)  
- Best person for the job isn’t necessarily a person with a degree (1)
2007 Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey included a sample of 45 social and health service providers, business, community and tourism representatives, political and government representatives, law enforcement representatives; and 23 drug user informants.

- “Stakeholders expressed strong support for the implementation of an SCS intervention in Victoria as a measure to tackle problems associated with street drug use in Victoria, and that such a step needs to be initiated now, as much talk and little tangible action has occurred to date.” (6)

- “Most stakeholders recommended the implementation of a decentralized SCS model – e.g., an initiative with at least two or more locations of which at least one should be located in the downtown core, with others elsewhere in the city and/or in surrounding municipalities – to improve the accessibility and utilization of a possible SCS program, yet also to proactively prevent or diffuse a potential concentration of services and to mitigate against any potential negative community impacts.” (6)

- “It was strongly emphasized that a possible SCS program should be closely integrated with or linked to essential social, health and addiction services required by the target population – primarily housing/shelter, detoxification and treatment services – and should therefore follow the model of an integrated care or ‘contact centre’ rather than being a stand-alone facility strictly focusing on ‘drug consumption’, in order to ensure the possibility of long-term and sustainable beneficial impacts.” (6)

- “Most stakeholders recommended that possible SCS facilities should be embedded into locally existing community-based addiction or health service providers with an established rapport with the target population (e.g., long-term high risk drug users, sex trade workers, and street-entrenched drug users).” (6)

- “Mixed views existed on the utility of a mobile SCS component.” (6)

- “In order to maximize the potential positive impact, many stakeholders underscored the importance of a possible SCS program being implemented based on ‘low threshold’ principles, namely imposing as few barriers as possible on drug users’ ability to access and utilize the facility (other than a code of conduct principally focusing on the safety of users and others).” (7)

- “[A] strong majority of stakeholders stressed that services should be open 24/7/365 or for a maximum number of needs-based hours (e.g., 10am-4am or 2pm-8am) seven days a week.” (7)

- “Prospective SCS facilities were recommended to target all drug users (including non-injectors, e.g., oral crack users), although injectors were emphasized as a priority target due to their particular health risks, but potential reasons were cited for keeping different drug cultures separate.” (7)

- “There were mixed views on whether an SCS program should allow for assisted use (e.g., assisted injection), whether to set an age limit, or whether to allow non-drug users to access ancillary services offered at an SCS facility.” (7)
• “Stakeholders mostly agreed that it was essential for a possible SCS facility to maintain order and minimize negative impacts on the surrounding community. In this context, it was viewed that the police would need to be an essential partner in the implementation of an SCS program, yet that their role should be transparently defined, and include: preventing the presence of drug dealers from the immediate site periphery; responding to emergencies occurring at any given facility; implementing a protocol agreement to ensure that SCS users would not get ‘busted’ on their way to/from any SCS; and actively ‘referring’ users to SCS services, yet generally keeping a distance from an SCS facility.” (7)

• “Finally, most stakeholders agreed that the success of a possible SCS program should be measured primarily by its effects on the health and risk behavior of its users as well as its overall impact on order and safety in the community.” (7)

3. Professional and institutional support for supervised consumption services

Health Officers Council of BC
The Health Officers Council of BC has resolved that “supervised injection services have been studied enough as research projects, and that it is time to move them into the mainstream of health service provision”
<http://vancouver.ca/fourpillars/documents/Supervised_Injection_Services_HOC.pdf>

College of Registered Nurses of BC and the Canadian Nursing Association
The College of Registered Nurses of BC and the Canadian Nursing Association have interpreted their Professional Standards for Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners in BC and Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses to encompass and support the supervision of drug consumption by clients.
Thirteen years of local recommendations for SCS in Victoria

Since 2002, seven reports have recommended Victoria take steps towards providing supervised consumption services (SCS) to increase the continuum of health care for people who use drugs.


   “That consideration be given to the establishment of a safe injection facility in the Capital Health Region. Planning for and development of a safe injection facility should include active participation by the community and by injection drug users (2002:69).”

   “While a fixed site for needle exchange must continue to exist, the hours of operation must be enhanced and the distribution and exchange of needles and other injecting equipment (such as injection ‘kits’ rather than simply needle exchange) must be decentralized to other locations” (2002: 67)

2. Downtown Service Providers Group (2003). Serving the homeless: Social agencies in “the red zone”.

   Of 5 issues impacting downtown Victoria: “Lack of addictions treatment and support services (including safe injection site)” (2003: 6)


   Of 10 Action Plan items: “an investigation of the feasibility and effectiveness of a supervised safe injection site in our community.”


   “Develop business case and research proposal for supervised consumption environments in Victoria” (2005: 46)


   “Research and development of innovative harm reduction service delivery models: Supervised consumption environments with wrap around low threshold services” (2006: 42)

“there is a need for small, properly staffed, supervised consumption sites to reduce the spread of disease, provide a stable point of contact for referrals and reduce the public disorder associated with public injection of drugs on our sidewalks (2007:10).”

7  

“That the City of Victoria, the Vancouver Island Health Authority and other local key stakeholders and partners undertake the necessary steps to move forward on the planning and implementing of a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) initiative in Victoria” (2007: 8)

“that the efforts toward an SCS initiative in Victoria ideally go forward under the umbrella of an s.56 exemption under the CDSA obtained from the federal government. However, if such an exemption cannot be obtained, that alternative ways are considered for an SCS initiative in Victoria to go forward outside this umbrella while within socially, ethically and legally defensible parameters.” (8)

Their stakeholder survey included a sample of 45 social and health service providers, business, community and tourism representatives, political and government representatives, law enforcement representatives; and 23 drug user informants: “stakeholders expressed strong support for the implementation of an SCS intervention in Victoria as a measure to tackle problems associated with street drug use in Victoria, and that such a step needs to be initiated now, as much talk and little tangible action has occurred to date.” (p.6)


“The time has come to take the necessary steps forward towards bringing a SCS program to Victoria,” says BC’s Provincial Health Officer Dr. Perry Kendall; “Victoria provides a perfect platform to implement a distinct and scientifically evaluated supervised consumption site program that is uniquely tailored to reflect the local characteristics of street drug use and associated public health needs,” says Fischer, director of the Illicit Drugs, Public Health and Policy Unit at UVic’s Centre for Addictions Research.  

Yes2scs - Community Support Appendices
Statements of support from Mayor and city councillors

Lisa Helps (Mayor):
“
I see a safe consumption site as part of a wrap around care model of health care and as part of a continuum of care needed by some of Victoria’s most vulnerable residents. I support the work and the approach that Marianne Alto and YES2SCS have been taking. I believe that a community-based governance model with ongoing input from service users is key. I also support a model that has complementary health care and housing services and provides the supports needed to help people overcome their addictions.”

Pam Madoff (8-term councillor):
“I am fully in support of the creation of one, or more, Supervised Consumption Services sites in Victoria. I am very familiar with both Insite and the Dr. Peter Centre. They have they been proven to reduce deaths and the spread of a number of illnesses. Of equal importance is that they provide a connection to support, counselling and addiction services. Evaluating the usefulness of this type of service really only involves what I would describe as a common sense approach. I believe that for a supervised injection site to be successful it is critical that access to complementary services, both health services and housing, for example, is critically important.”

Chris Coleman (5-term councillor)
“I am supportive of having Supervised Consumption Services being based in Victoria. The model that I think would be more easily accepted in this region would look like the Dr. Peter Centre……..but it is interesting to note that the Vancouver Police Dept has evolved in its thinking to a position of support for Insight as well (not previously the case). I am supportive for the reasons you articulate, but also because we’ve seen the benefits of both models in terms of the Vancouver experience. Victoria needs to follow. To be fair, there has been a lot of work done on this file, in conjunction with Island Health; the reality is, however, following “process” is a long term commitment. I am happy to support this initiative moving forward in discussions at City Hall. I would also point out that there needs to be a ramping up of a national discussion with respect to the provision of such services.”

Charlayne Thornton-Joe (4-term councillor):
“I support SCS in Victoria, preferably the model similar to the Dr. Peter Centre. I have been to both InSite and the Dr. Peter Centre. To help raise awareness, I invited other Councillors to join me in a tour of both of the locations when we were at a UBCM Conference in Vancouver. To work towards opening one, we would need to work with Island Health on identifying possible location/locations, and work to ensure that the necessary supports are funded. I support them because addiction is a health issue. We need to provide places where people can safely consume….and have staff there to ensure that it is not done in an unsafe manner (rushed) and that someone is there to assist if there is an overdose. SCS save lives. But we also need facilities attached such as detox and treatment beds on demand.”

Marianne Alto (2-term councillor):
“The next step in improving health services for vulnerable Victorians, for increasing and coordinating harm reduction services for Victoria, is providing supervised consumption services. As a city councillor, one of my first acts was to propose and persuade Council to adopt a resolution bringing together the major players in harm reduction services, and for almost three years I worked with and coached service providers, Island Health, and the Victoria Police Department to redesign coordinated delivery of harm reduction services. Harm reduction saves lives, and SCS are a critical aspect of harm reduction services.”
Ben Isitt (2-term councillor):

“Yes, I support the establishment of supervised consumption services in the City of Victoria and Capital Region without delay, because I believe we have an ethical duty to reduce harm relating to addictions. Most importantly, we can act now to reduce the health impacts on users, including the transmission of infections and disease and a reduction of the severity and incidence of overdose. Supervised consumption services have the additional benefit of reducing other impacts relating to addictions, including the cost on the health care system and impacts on neighbourhoods. If re-elected to Victoria City Council, I will continue to advocate strongly for the establishment of supervised consumption services without delay. In my current term as an elected official, I have helped obtain the support of the Victoria Police Department for these necessary services and I have consistently and publicly urged Island Health to act now in partnership with service providers and the City to establish these necessary and long-overdue health services.”

Jeremy Loveday (1-term):

“I believe that Safe Consumption Services allow for harm reduction for drug users, help to keep needles off the street, and break the stigma of drug addiction, allowing for increased chances of recovery. To be blunt, it will save lives and makes our community safer. I would help facilitate the process by bringing the right organizations and people together. We need health care professionals, social workers, VIHA, and the provincial government all on board to make Safe Consumption Services happen. I would follow the lead of other cities that have launched successful Safe Consumption Services so that we can learn from their failures and successes.”
Media coverage of yes2scs:
community campaign for Supervised Consumption Services in Victoria

June 1 2016 Georgia Straight: Crosses Planted in Victoria represent hundreds dying of illicit drug overdoses every year. “If they can come out of that [June 9] meeting with some funding commitments and some commitment to ease the process for instituting supervised consumption across B.C., then that will be a really big step.” <http://www.straight.com/life/709681/crosses-planted-victoria-represent-hundreds-dying-illicit-drug-overdoses-every-year>

June 1 2016 CBC radio: “People are trying to use together and spreading that message, but with the increase in fentanyl, people just never know what’s going to happen when they’re using,” she said. “People need to have a safe place they can use so they’re not scared and using behind dumpsters.” <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/programs/ontheisland/group-plants-600-crosses-to-publicize-push-for-overdose-prevention-measures-1.3611293>

June 1 2016 CheckNews: “For a ‘high priority’ public health emergency, we’re not sure how taking money from existing services to pay for supervised consumption fits.” <http://www.cheknews.ca/victoria-safe-injection-crosses-182196/>


December 29, 2015 *CBC Radio BC Almanac*: The University of Victoria’s Bruce Wallace and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control’s Dr. Jane Buxton on what can be done to reduce fatal drug overdoses.


