

CANADA CAN'T WAIT: THE TIME FOR PRISON-BASED NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAMS IS NOW

Statement by nearly 250 organizations Canada-wide

June 1, 2016

We, the undersigned, represent many different communities and interests. But today we speak with one voice, firmly committed to health and human rights, in support of desperately needed prison-based needle and syringe programs (PNSPs) in Canada. The time for PNSPs is now.

In Canada, people in prison face far greater risk of HIV and hepatitis C infection because they are denied access to sterile injection equipment. Access to sterile injection equipment is a proven harm reduction strategy — it is widely supported and available in communities across the country, has been successfully implemented in prisons in numerous other countries for decades, and is recommended by a wide range of health experts and organizations. But it remains unavailable in Canadian prisons.

Prisoners are part of our communities; for too long, they have been mistakenly seen as outsiders. Prisoners are our mothers, fathers, partners, daughters, sons, constituents, family and friends. They do not lose their human rights upon incarceration.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge the overwhelming evidence supporting PNSPs and recognize they are urgently needed in Canada. Together, we call upon the Canadian federal and provincial governments to immediately implement PNSPs in prisons across the country.

To ensure such programs function effectively, implementation must involve meaningful consultation with current and former prisoners, as well as health, harm reduction, and human rights experts, and with on-going external and independent oversight.

PNSPs are a critical part of a larger strategy to improve the health and well-being of people in prisons, and therefore of our families, friends and communities.

For more information please visit www.prisonhealthnow.ca.

List of signatories: *(organizations only)*

1. Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
2. ACCKWA - AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area
3. ACT - AIDS Committee of Toronto
4. Action Hepatitis Canada / Action Hepatitis Canada
5. Action Positive VIH/sida
6. Addiction Services of Thames Valley / Services de toxicomanie de Thames Valley
7. Adobe Consulting Services
8. AIDS Committee of Durham Region
9. AIDS Committee of Ottawa

10. AIDS Committee of Windsor
11. AIDS Committee of York Region
12. AIDS Community Care Montreal / SIDA bénévoles Montréal
13. AIDS Moncton / SIDA Moncton
14. AIDS Saint John
15. AIDS Vancouver Island
16. Alberta Community Council on HIV
17. Alberta Medical Association - Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
18. All Nations Hope Network
19. Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
20. Amelia Sloan Therapy
21. ANKORS- AIDS Network, Outreach and Support Society
22. AQPSUD - Association québécoise pour la promotion de la santé des personnes utilisatrices de drogues
23. ARCH Disability Law Centre
24. ACAS - Asian Community AIDS Services / Services SIDA pour les communautés asiatiques
25. Associated Youth Services of Peel
26. Association des intervenants en toxicomanie du Québec inc.
27. Association des juristes progressistes
28. Association of Ontario Health Centres / Association des centres de santé de l'Ontario
29. Atira Women's Resource Society
30. BC Centre for Disease Control
31. BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS
32. BC Civil Liberties Association
33. Bengali Information and Employment Services
34. Blood Ties Four Directions Centre
35. Bloom Clinic
36. Boyle McCauley Health Centre
37. Boyle Street Community Services
38. Breakaway Addictions Services
39. BRISS- Bureau régional d'information en santé sexuelle
40. Bureau régional d'action sida
41. Cactus Montréal
42. Cammy LaFleur Street Outreach Team
43. Campaign for Safer Consumption Sites – Ottawa
44. Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network
45. Canadian AIDS Society / Société Canadienne du sida
46. Canadian Association of Community Health Centres / Association canadienne des centres de santé communautaire
47. CANAC - Canadian Association of Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care / ACIIS - L'Association canadienne des infirmières et infirmiers en sidologie
48. Canadian Association of Social Workers / Association canadienne des travailleurs sociaux
49. Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
50. Canadian Forensic Nurses Association
51. Canadian Harm Reduction Network
52. Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
53. Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County Branch
54. Canadian Mental Health Association - Thunder Bay Branch
55. Canadian Positive People Network / Réseau Canadien de Personnes Séropositives
56. Canadian Public Health Association / Association canadienne de santé publique
57. Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
58. Canadian Women's Health Network / Le Réseau Canadien pour la santé des femmes
59. CWGHR - Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation / GTCVRS - Groupe de travail canadien sur le VIH et la réinsertion sociale
60. CAPAHC- Centre Associatif Polyvalent d'Aide Hépatite C
61. CATIE- formerly known as the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange
62. Central Alberta AIDS Network Society
63. CRAN - Centre de recherche et d'aide pour narcomanes
64. CIPTO - Centre d'intervention et de prévention en toxicomanie de l'Outaouais
65. Centre for Addictions Research of BC
66. Centre francophone de Toronto
67. Centre Sida Amitié
68. Centretown Community Health Centre / Centre de santé communautaire du centre-ville

69. CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health
70. Clinique Droits Devant
71. Clinique Santé Amitié
72. COCQ-SIDA - Coalition des organismes communautaires québécois de lutte contre le sida
73. Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education
74. Community Action for Families
75. Community Legal Assistance Sarnia
76. Community Legal Clinic, Simcoe, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes
77. Community Legal Services Ottawa Centre / Clinique juridique communautaire Ottawa centre
78. Conroy & Company
79. Criminalization and Punishment Education Project
80. Cota Inspires
81. CTAC - formerly known as the Canadian Treatment Action Council
82. Dans la rue
83. Defence for Children International-Canada
84. Department of Criminology, Ryerson University
85. Dîners St. Louis
86. Dixon Hall Neighborhoods Services
87. Doctors of the World / Médecins du Monde
88. Dopamine
89. DUAL - Drug User Advocacy League
90. École de travail social, UQAM- L'Université du Québec à Montréal
91. Elevate NWO- Elevate NorthWestern Ontario
92. Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic
93. Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver
94. Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland NS
95. Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba / EFSM
96. Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario
97. Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
98. Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto
99. Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University
100. Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta
101. Families for Addiction Recovery
102. Fondation d'Aide Directe - SIDA Montréal
103. GEIPSI- Groupe d'entraide à l'intention des personnes séropositives itinérantes et toxicomanes
104. GenesisSquared Counselling
105. George Spady Clinical Access Team
106. Goyeau Street Clinic - Methadone Clinic
107. HALCO - HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
108. Hamilton Community Legal Clinic / Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton
109. Head & Hands / A deux mains
110. Healing Our Nations
111. Health Officers Council
112. HepCBC Hepatitis C Education and Prevention Society
113. HIV Community Link
114. HIV Network of Edmonton Society
115. HIV North Society
116. HIV/AIDS Regional Services
117. Houselink Community Homes
118. IAVGO - Industrial Accident Victims' Group of Ontario Community Legal Clinic
119. IMAGINE Student-Run Clinic - Interprofessional Medical and Allied Groups for Improving Neighbourhood Environment
120. Ingram School of Nursing / Ecole des sciences infirmières Ingram
121. Injured Workers' Consultants - Community Legal Aid Clinic
122. Inner City Health and Wellness Program, Royal Alexandra Hospital
123. Institute for Intersectionality Research and Policy, Simon Fraser University
124. Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Carleton University
125. ICAD - Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development / Coalition interagence sida et développement
126. International Centre for Science in Drug Policy
127. International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto
128. IRIS Estrie
129. Jac's Voice: On Living With Addiction and Mental Illness

130. John Howard Society of Simcoe Muskoka
131. John Howard Society of Canada
132. John Howard Society of Ontario
133. John Howard Society of Ottawa
134. John Howard Society of Peterborough
135. John Howard Society of Toronto
136. Justice Strategies
137. KAPOW - Knowledge & Power of Women
138. Karmik
139. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
140. Klinik Community Health Care
141. L'A.R.C.H.E de l'Estrie
142. LAMP Community Health Centre
143. Lethbridge HIV Connection
144. Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan
145. Loft Community Services
146. Maggie's - Toronto Sex Workers Action Project
147. Mainline Needle Exchange Program
148. MAINS BSL- Mouvement d'Aide et d'Information Sida Bas-Saint-Laurent
149. Maison Plein Coeur
150. MB Hepatitis C Support Community Inc.
151. Méta d'Âme
152. Metro Toronto Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
153. Middlesex-London Health Unit
154. Mid-Main Community Health Centre
155. MIELS-QUÉBEC- Mouvement d'information et d'entraide dans la lutte contre le VIH-sida à Québec
156. Minwaashin Lodge
157. mumsDU: moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users
158. Native Youth Sexual Health Network
159. N.E.W. Points Program
160. NORML - National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws in Canada
161. Niagara North Community Legal Assistance
162. Nine Circles Community Health Centre
163. Northern HIV and Health Education Society
164. Northwestern Health Unit
165. Nurses Association of New Brunswick / L'association des infirmières et infirmiers nouveau brunswick
166. Ottawa Inner City Health
167. Oxford County Public Health
168. Pacific AIDS Network Society
169. Pacific Hepatitis C Network
170. Pacte de rue
171. Parkdale Community Health Centre
172. PARN - Peterborough AIDS Resource Network
173. PASAN - Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network
174. PHAN - Peel HIV/AIDS Network
175. Peterborough Community Legal Centre
176. PHS (Portland Hotel Society) Community Services Society
177. Plein Milieu
178. Pivot Legal Society
179. Point de Repères
180. Population and Public Health - Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
181. Portail VIH/sida du Québec / HIV/AIDS Portal of Québec
182. Positive Living BC
183. Positive Living Niagara
184. POWER - Prostitutes of Ottawa-Gatineau Work, Educate and Resist)
185. Prison Justice Committee of the Law Union of Ontario
186. Prisoners' Justice Film Festival
187. Prisoners' Legal Services
188. Programmes d'études et de recherche en toxicomanie, Université de Sherbrooke / Addiction Research Study Programs, Sherbrooke University
189. Projet Ado-Communautaire en Travail de rue

190. Public Health Physicians of Canada / Médecins de santé publique du Canada
191. Queen West - Central Toronto Community Health Centre
192. Quesnel Shelter and Support Society
193. RAP Jeunesse
194. Regional HIV/AIDS Connection
195. Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario / l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers autorisés de l'Ontario
196. Renfrew County Legal Clinic
197. Réseau ACCESS Network
198. RÉZO- previously Séro Zéro
199. Rittenhouse
200. SWAP - Safe Works Access Program
201. Sanctuary Ministries of Toronto
202. Sandy Hill Community Health Center
203. Saskatchewan Infectious Disease Care Network Inc.
204. School of Epidemiology, Public Health and Preventive Medicine, University of Ottawa / Ecole d'Epidémiologie, de Santé Publique et Médecine de Prévention, Université d'Ottawa
205. School of Nursing, University of British Columbia
206. School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia
207. School of Public Policy, Simon Fraser University
208. School of Social Work, University of Victoria
209. Service de médecine des toxicomanies du CHUM
210. SFUO Pride Centre / Centre de la fierté de la FÉUO
211. SHARC - Self Help Addiction Resource Centre
212. Shelter House
213. Sidaction Mauricie
214. Sida -Vie Laval
215. Social Equity Enterprise / Entreprise de l'équité sociale
216. Somerset West Community Health Centre
217. South Riverdale Community Health Centre
218. Spectre de rue
219. Springtide Resources
220. St. Leonard's House
221. Stella, L'amie de Maimie
222. Street Health
223. Streetworks
224. Sudbury & District Health Unit
225. Sudbury Action Centre for Youth
226. Syme Woolner Neighbourhood & Family Centre
227. Tapping Your Inner Resources
228. The ALLY Centre of Cape Breton
229. The Global Ibogaine Therapy Alliance / L'Alliance Internationale des Thérapeutes d'Ibogaine
230. Thunder Bay Drug Strategy
231. Timiskaming Health Unit
232. Toronto Harm Reduction Alliance
233. Toronto Harm Reduction Workers' Union
234. Toronto Public Health
235. Toxic-Actions
236. Travail de rue action communautaire
237. Unité d'intervention mobile L'Anonyme
238. Vancouver Island Persons Living with HIV/AIDS Society
239. Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)
240. Warden Woods Community Center
241. WellFort Community Health Services
242. Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy
243. Women In 2 Healing
244. LEAF - Women's Legal Education and Action Fund / FAEJ - Fonds d'action et d'éducation juridiques pour les femmes
245. Women's Studies and Gender Studies, St. Thomas University
246. Young Physicians for Public Health / Jeunes médecins pour la santé publique