

@h.a.r.d.l.a.w

we are a group of students who are former users, current users, harm reduction workers, and allies working towards building a legal system that affirms the autonomy and dignity of people who use drugs. for us, that means a legal system where drugs are decriminalized, demedicalized, and accessible.



Thanks for getting a safe supply. to:lei



[cancer is #1] drug toxicity is the #2 cause of death in BC

In an illegal drug market, purity and potency is unregulated. Drug additives and unpredictable doses result in overdoses, infections, poisonings and death.

### references and further reading :~)

- [1] On the outcomes of the War on Drug, see: Richard Davenport-Hines, *The Pursuit of Oblivion: A Social History of Drugs* (2001, Orion Publishing); and David Musto, *The American Disease* (1999, Oxford University Press).
- [2] Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs, "#SAFESUPPLY CONCEPT DOCUMENT" (2019).
- [3] Government of Canada, "Opioid- and Stimulant-related Harms in Canada," online: <<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/substance-related-harms/opioids-stimulants/>>.
- [4] Eugenia Oviedo-Joekes et al., "Hydromorphone Compared With Diacetylmorphine for Long-term Opioid Dependence," (2016) *JAMA Psych*; and Eugenia Oviedo-Joekes, "Diacetylmorphine versus Methadone for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction," (2009) *New England Journal of Medicine*.
- [5] Office of the Provincial Health Officer, British Columbia Ministry of Health, *BC Opioid Substitution Treatment System Performance Measures 2014/2015 – 2015/2016* (2017).
- [6] Tyndall, M., "A safer drug supply: A pragmatic and ethical response to the overdose crisis" (2020) *CMAJ*, 192(34), E986–E987. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.201618>.
- [7] Myhill-Jones, B. J., "RE: A safer drug supply: a pragmatic and ethical response to the overdose crisis" (2021) online: <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/re-safer-drug-supply-pragmatic-andethical-response-overdose-crisis-0>
- [8] Karla Lopez, Deborah Reid, "Discrimination Against Patients With Substance Use Disorders Remains Prevalent And Harmful: The Case For 42 CFR Part 2" (2017) *Health Affairs Blog*, online: DOI: 10.1377/hblog20170413.059618
- [9] Kolla, G., & Strike, C., "Medicalization under prohibition: The tactics and limits of medicalization in the spaces where people use illicit drugs" (2021) *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 28(2), 127–137. online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2020.1769029>
- [10] THE DULF AND VANDU EVALUATIVE COMPASSION CLUB, "A Strategic Framework for Preventing Overdose Deaths due to the Unpredictable Illicit Drug Supply" (2022) online: [https://www.dulf.ca/\\_files/ugd/fe034c\\_d16d82483593406da4d4459d6f7aa63e.pdf?index=true](https://www.dulf.ca/_files/ugd/fe034c_d16d82483593406da4d4459d6f7aa63e.pdf?index=true)

SAFE SUPPLY NOW

Safe supply is NOT substitution treatments [eg. methadone, buprenorphine/suboxone, and slow release oral morphine] because these treatments do not contain the mind/body altering effects that people look for in recreational drugs. Substitution treatments have benefited many and absolutely should be available to anyone who wants them! But this is not the same as public policy decisions. They focus on the legal conditions that people who use drugs face and emphasizes the need for their direct involvement in creating policy. The Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs (CAPUD) is the national drug user organization in Canada. We build a better future for people who use drugs. @ www.capud.ca

Safe supply includes drugs such as heroin, stimulants such as cocaine and crystal methamphetamine, hallucinogens such as MDMA and LSD, and marijuana. Safe supply includes drugs such as heroin, stimulants, and marijuana. Safe supply includes drugs such as heroin, stimulants, and marijuana. Safe supply includes drugs such as heroin, stimulants, and marijuana.



### safe supply in action

DULF and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) requested the temporary Criminal Code exemption from Health Canada to operate a compassion club model for safe supply last year. It was rejected July 25, 2022.

"The compassion club developed at VANDU provides access to a safer supply of heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine for those at high risk of dying from the toxic illicit drug supply. The VANDU compassion club represents a non-medical model for the distribution of a safer supply of drugs and has been developed democratically by peers who have been personally affected by the crises, who are motivated simply by one thing: the frequent and persistent trauma brought on by the loss of life that threatens ourselves and our loved ones." [10]

In just one month of operations, VANDU's Compassion Club and Fulfillment Centre distributed 201 grams of Cocaine, Heroin and Methamphetamine with

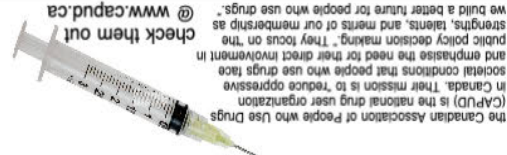
### no overdoses or deaths.

compassion club models are accessible through peers / communities where to people who use drugs feel safe + welcome. accessing safe supply through trusted community members means that people who use drugs can avoid stigma from service providers. [10]

the compassion club model works because it is centered around the needs of the people it serves. The purpose of safe supply is to provide people a safer way to access what they seek in illegal drugs, dispensing models must mitigate risk - but not overburden the client. If clients are surveilled, punished, or controlled—the program will fail because it is not accessible enough to undercut the illicit market. [2]



Safe supply won't fix the opioid crisis. But it is an immediate way to prevent death and overdose. Safe supply works towards decriminalizing + destigmatizing those targeted by drug policy. It offers hope, stability, autonomy, and dignity for people who use drugs. It is a necessary element of ending the war on drugs.



In a recent heroin maintenance study in Vancouver, participants had 80% retention a year after treatment and had dramatic reductions in illegal opioid use. [4] vs. a recent BC study on retention rates of clients on methadone was under 35% after a year. [5]

Safe supply has been shown to keep clients on treatment, lower amount of illicit drug use, + create stability and improve quality of life. [2] In a recent heroin maintenance study in Vancouver, participants had 80% retention a year after treatment and had dramatic reductions in illegal opioid use. [4] vs. a recent BC study on retention rates of clients on methadone was under 35% after a year. [5]

Prohibitionist drug policy is dehumanising. It criminalizes and stigmatizes people who choose to use drugs, labelling certain behaviour as 'right' and other behaviour as 'wrong'. Safe supply flips the narrative - it respects the agency of people who use drugs and removes any moral 'right/wrong' created by prohibitionist drug policy. A regulated drug supply is a step towards de-stigmatization. [2] The war on drugs disproportionately impacts people of colour, poor people, and other targeted communities, who are more often overpoliced and criminalized. People with more resources, especially if they are white, are less often the targets of law enforcement. Safe supply limits this stigmatization by removing stigma and danger. People who use drugs can feel dignified. [2] Effectiveness

Ingredients: cocaine.\*

\*Please see insert.

**NOT FOR SALE.**

Keep away from children and pets.

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS COCAINE WHICH IS A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE.

Cocaine

cocaine ~100% no cut / no buff

### why safe supply?

overdose deaths continue to increase at an alarming rate new crises develop as a result of the unregulated drug market. (Benzodiazepine contamination, severe and frequent infections, introduction of Carfentanil).

providing people who use drugs with non-toxic drugs dramatically lowers death rates

### why NOT medicalization

- medicalized "safe supply" does not work because:
  - prescribers do not want to prescribe / do not want to gatekeep "safe supply" [6] / many fear stigma from colleagues / their college [7]
  - receiving a "substance use disorder diagnosis" is harmful to people who use drugs recreationally [8]
  - medicalization reduces harm reduction uptake and effectiveness [9]

Ingredients: heroin, morphine, etc.

**NOT FOR SALE.**

Keep away from children and pets.

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS HEROIN WHICH IS A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE.

Heroin

heroin ~100% no cut / no buff

The Drug User Liberation Front (DULF) is an organized collective of people who use drugs empowered to make change through direct action, courage and conviction, and fueled by the memories of the countless friends, families, and loved ones whose lives have been taken by an unjust, broken system of laws and policies. These "why" points come from their resources on Community-Led Compassion Clubs, more on these on the next page!

check them out @ DULF.ca