



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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MAYOR

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May 9, 2008

The Hon. Tony Clement  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Clement:

Further to our previous discussions, I am writing with regard to the issues of drug addiction and mental illness in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside - particularly as it relates to the future of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority's Insite and your government's recent funding announcement.

*Insite*

At the end of next month - your operating permit for Insite expires.

As you know, I fully support the continuation of Insite. On behalf of Vancouver City Council, I am respectfully recommending that you approve the full exemption that has been requested by our local health authority.

If you are still not completely convinced of Insite's benefits, then I would encourage you to take more time to make your decision and - at minimum - extend the permit until all legal issues around its operation are fully and finally resolved.

*Treatment Funding*

I want to thank you for your recent announcement of additional funding for drug treatment. It is my hope that you will be able to conclude a funding agreement with Minister Abbott regarding British Columbia's share of the \$110 million as soon as possible.

This will complement the significant funding allocations you have made for Vancouver priorities through the national anti-drug strategy and Mental Health Commission of Canada. Over \$30 million will be allocated to Vancouver priorities, thanks to these recent announcements and your leadership.

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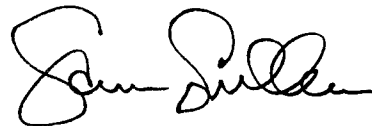
The Mental Health Commission of Canada is recognizing the Downtown Eastside as a national issue and charting a new course to help people suffering with the concurrent disorders of mental illness & drug addiction. Among other things we are promoting:

- youth prevention partnership with the Vancouver School Board
- street outreach teams
- innovative treatment options
- UBC centre for concurrent disorders
- community partnerships focused on youth, First Nations and helping women get out of prostitution

These initiatives - combined with our provincial government's investment for social housing - have led to a renewed sense of hope that collaboration between all levels of government is a reality and a critical part of the solution for Vancouver.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" being more prominent than the last name "Sullivan".

Sam Sullivan  
MAYOR

c.c. The Hon. Stockwell Day - Minister of Public Safety  
The Hon. David Emerson - Minister for International Trade  
The Hon. George Abbott - Minister of Health