

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
K1A 0A2

October 22, 2007

Honourable Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

RE: Insite – Vancouver’s Supervised Injection Facility

As you are aware, addiction continues to be a serious health-related matter in Canada. There is now a growing consensus indicating that the harms of addiction should be addressed using a variety of means including evidence based health-focused policies and programs.

The evidence generated to date indicates strongly that supervised injection facilities play an important role within a comprehensive drug policy response. There is now a large body of peer-reviewed scientific evidence speaking to the benefits of Insite, Canada’s only supervised injection facility. This body of evidence has also ruled out potential harmful effects of this innovative initiative.

In light of the available evidence, and the ongoing and severe harms associated with addiction in Canada, we urge you to support the application of evidence-based interventions by allowing Insite to continue to operate and continue to serve some of Canada’s most marginalized and severely addicted citizens.

Yours truly,



Dr G. S. Meneilly, MD, FRCPC



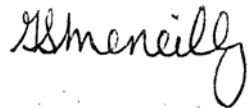
Dr Julio Montaner, Division of AIDS



Dr Robert Schellenberg, Allergy / Immunology



Dr Chris Buller, Cardiology



pp Dr Barry Kassen, Community Medicine / General Internal Medicine



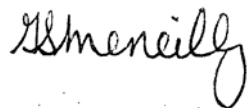
Dr Dean Chittock, Critical Care



Dr Ehud Ur, Endocrinology



Dr Eric Yoshida, Gastroenterology



pp. Dr Janet McElhaney, Geriatric Medicine



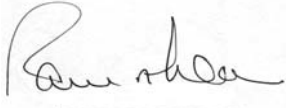
Dr Michael Barnett, Haematology



Dr Neil Reiner, Infectious Diseases




Dr Susan O'Reilly, Medical Oncology



Dr Paul Keown, Nephrology



Dr Howard Feldman, Division Head, Neurology



Dr Theo van Rijn, Physical & Rehab Medicine



Dr Mark Fitzgerald, Respiratory



Dr John Esdaile, Rheumatology

cc: The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health

The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety