

From: valerie coles
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 8:52 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: SUBSTITUTION DRUG PROGRAM - A MESSAGE FOR SAM SULLIVAN (MY HERO)

As the mother of a long-time street drug user who for years was in the hellish depths of addiction and now recovered, I strongly support this initiative. (I am also the victim of a break-in three years ago in which electronic equipment and irreplaceable heritage jewelry were stolen from my North Van townhouse by a well-known (RCMP's words) addict.

This substitution program is such an obvious solution and one that many close friends and I have discussed for several years. It will all but eliminate car theft, home invasions, bank and retail robberies, street assaults and of course, the indescribable mess on Vancouver's eastside. The savings to the judicial system alone will be in the billions of dollars annually. And of course, this incredible saving could then be strategically allocated to those areas in such great need like health care and low-cost housing initiatives.

Although I live in North Vancouver, I would like to volunteer to help make this initiative a success. It was with great joy that I read today that three prominent doctors have thrown in their support, including John Blatherwick, and I applaud them. It's way past the time when we look at drug addiction through the lens of 'morality' and view it for what it is: A sickness that is costing every one of us thousands and thousands of wasted dollars. Let's approach it solely as a financial undertaking and therefore bystep these outdated moral judgments.

Count me in!!

Thank you,

Valerie Coles