

Minister's Office - Health Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0K9

February 22, 2007

The Honourable Minister of Health Tony Clement,

Sadly our family knows all too well the toll taken by an addiction to illegal stimulant drugs. I would urge you, as I am, to support the prescription medication treatment research trials (CAST) proposed for Vancouver by Mayor Sullivan and supported by "The Four Pillars Drug Strategy" (a coordinated, comprehensive approach that balances public order and public health in order to create a safer, healthier community)

The "Chronic Addiction Substitution Treatment (CAST) Program" will help address the need to move forward in treating those individuals with chronic addiction to illegal stimulant drugs. CAST would allow those addicted to attain some biological and behavioural stability. The consequences of a more stable lifestyle would see more individuals willing and able participate in addiction treatment programs, access supportive housing, refrain from the criminal activity needed to fund their use of illegal drugs and maintain a healthy lifestyle..

Yes, the world is coming to Vancouver in 2010! Vancouver must support action now to improve the lives of all our citizens. CAST will help those struggling with the disease of addiction to begin to maintain a healthier and more productive lifestyle. CAST will be helping us continue to be one of the most livable cities in the world.

Sincerely,
Patricia Johnson
Vancouver BC