

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Mayor Sullivan, Citizens of Vancouver,

I am writing to express my support for the Chronic Addictions Substitution Treatment initiative. I am pleased to see that there is a willingness to try new approaches to address the problems faced both by chronically addicted people, and by the rest of the populace in terms of crime and disorder.

I have experienced addiction first hand and found that replacing the illegal street drugs that I was using with a similarly acting oral medication helped me to overcome the physiological symptoms of withdrawal, such as fatigue and irritability. I did not use it long term, but I found it an effective bridging measure for that crucial transition period from addict to recovering addict.

This is the period at which addicts need the most support. Enabling people to access health resources and enact changes in lifestyle is a good starting point. Using medication to lessen the symptoms of withdrawal and allow people to adjust to new ways of thinking and feeling is a reasonable next one.

I feel confident that there will be a number of people who respond well to this treatment, and will use the opportunity provided to make a difference in their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phoenix Beck', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phoenix Beck