

## Board of Health

---

**From:** Jennifer Chambers <Jennifer.Chambers@camh.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2020 1:39 AM  
**To:** Board of Health  
**Subject:** FW: decriminalizing drug use

**Categories:** Communications

To the attention of the City Clerk:

Unfortunately I can not attend the committee to depute today, but wonder if there would be another opportunity to address this essential issue? Should there be a place for sharing this message with Committee Members, please share.

The Empowerment Council, of which I am Executive Director, is a voice for people with mental health and addiction issues. We intervened in a Supreme Court case - Tranchmontagne - in which it was ruled that addiction is a disability, and as such is protected under human rights codes. Criminalizing people because they have this disability is discriminatory, particularly when our society does not provide sufficient and timely resources to help people who want help with addiction.

Criminalizing people just for using certain substances is senseless, be it in terms of justice, social well being, health or even economics. It drives people into corners of hopelessness and social exclusion from which many can never recover, to everyone's cost.

Jennifer Chambers

---

This email has been scanned by the CAMH Email Security System.

---

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:** This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

**AVIS DE CONFIDENTIALITÉ :** Ce message électronique, ainsi que tout fichier qui y est joint, est réservé à l'usage exclusif du destinataire visé et peut contenir des renseignements confidentiels et privilégiés. Toute lecture, utilisation, divulgation ou distribution non autorisée est interdite. Si vous n'êtes pas le destinataire visé, veuillez en aviser l'expéditeur par retour de courriel et détruire toutes les copies du message original.