

**From:** [Dan Bingham](#)  
**To:** [Board of Health](#)  
**Subject:** Item HL32.3  
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**Attachments:** [Harm reduction bill of rights 2021.pdf](#)

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The Members Advocacy Committee created the " Harm Reduction Bill of Rights" to help protect PWUD. We have been recognized by Representatives of Federal, Provincial and Municipal, Governments.

# **Canada Needs a Harm Reduction Bill of Rights – 2021**

Member Advocacy Committee, St. Stephen's Community House

Our bill of rights is adapted from the Vienna Declaration for Drug Users from 2010 at [www.viennadeclaration.com](http://www.viennadeclaration.com)

Find more useful information at [www.drugpolicy.ca](http://www.drugpolicy.ca)

The Vienna Declaration is an international document. It calls for decriminalization of drug use. It says we need a public health policy approach to all drug use. We are adapting it for our Canadian Harm Reduction Bill of Rights. The Declaration has been adopted by the United Nations.

## **Components of a Canadian Harm Reduction Bill of Rights:**

We urge the next Canadian Government to ensure:

- that safe consumption sites be accessible across Canada in all provinces and territories
- that a safe supply of all drugs be provided to all people who use drugs
- funding for support services for harm reduction workers, such as grief counselling, short-term leave and supplementary benefits
- that the social determinants of health be taken into consideration when crafting drug policies
- that low-barrier, stigma-free medical care be provided to people who use drugs
- the abolition of ineffective compulsory drug treatments that violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- that treatment centres should not mandate participation in any religious activities, including 12-step meetings, as this violates an individual's freedom of religion, as outlined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- that health care providers nationwide adopt a harm reduction philosophy and make all efforts to avoid stigmatizing people who use drugs
- that big pharmaceutical companies be held accountable for their role in the wrongful deaths of the thousands of overdose victims in this country
- nationwide access to safer drug use supplies and all other harm reduction services
- the meaningful involvement of people who use drugs in developing, monitoring and implementing services and policies that affect their lives.

The Member Advocacy Committee is a group of people with lived experience of poverty, drug use, homelessness, disability and more. We advocate for positive social change. We use our lived experience and knowledge gained from interactions with people in poverty and on the streets of Toronto. Our group is committed to advocacy to reduce the gap between rich and poor, and strong social programs to benefit those who have the least in our society.