



CANADIAN  
DRUG POLICY  
COALITION  
2011-2012:  
BUILDING  
A MOVEMENT



**Canadian Drug  
Policy Coalition**

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**Coalition canadienne  
des politiques  
sur les drogues**

## **DRUGPOLICY.CA**

This work was made possible with the support of the MAC AIDS Fund, the Open Society Global Drug Policy Fund, private donations and a generous donation from the Estate of the late Kitty Heller.

THE CANADIAN DRUG  
POLICY COALITION ENVI-  
SIONS A SAFE, HEALTHY  
AND JUST CANADA IN  
WHICH DRUG POLICY IS  
BASED ON EVIDENCE,  
HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL  
INCLUSION AND PUBLIC  
HEALTH.

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JOIN US IN A PROCESS  
OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE  
AND ACTION.

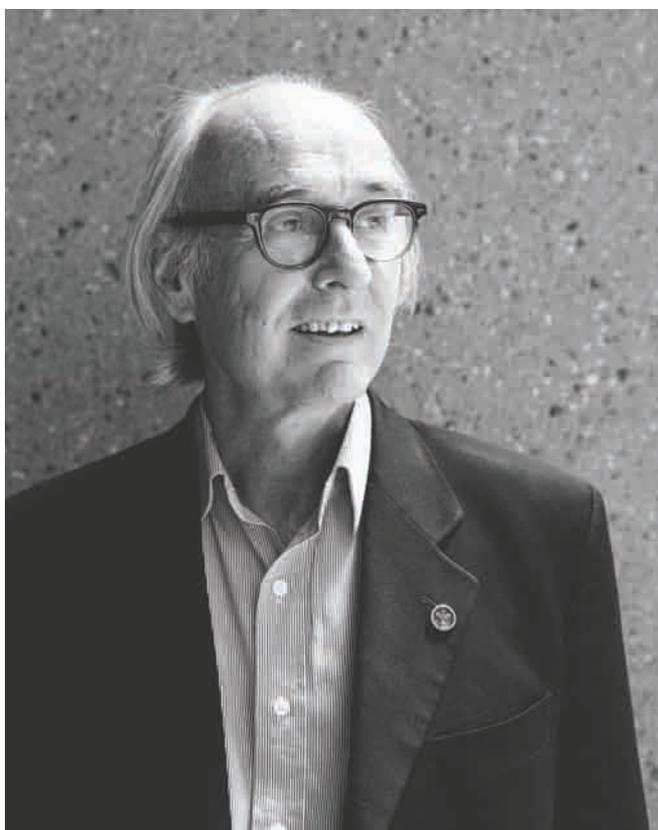
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# FROM THE DIRECTOR

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This past year I have had the great fortune to be involved in the creation of a new national entity with a profound vision for how Canada responds to drug problems in our communities. In March of 2011, representatives of organizations from across Canada joined together to create the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC) in a small hotel in the shadow of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa. Over three days a plan was crafted to initiate a national network and program of action and advocacy to engage Canadians in public dialogue and bring a critical lens to Canada's current approaches to the use of psychoactive substances.

Drug policies are intertwined with our daily lives. They have an impact on our ability to attain safe and healthy communities and on the way that young people navigate a society where the use of drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and pharmaceutical products is common.



Our drug policies also have international consequences. The horrendous loss of lives in Mexico as a result of the war on drugs – estimated to be upwards of 60 thousand people over the past 6 years – is directly related to drug policies that Canada supports at home and abroad. We think it is important that the impacts of our policy choices on individuals, families and communities are understood. These policies are not written in stone. They can be evaluated, revised or replaced with more effective solutions and approaches.

There is a compelling body of evidence that indicates it is time to review our current drug policies. CDPC envisions a Canada that is safe, healthy and just, in which drug policy and legislation, as well as institutional practice, are based on evidence, human rights, social inclusion and public health. CDPC is also a part of a vibrant international movement that is precipitating a vigorous dialogue on alternative approaches to reducing the harms from drugs at a global level.

This past year CDPC has been working hard to build a network of individuals and organizations across Canada and internationally that support a review of current policies. In early 2013, the Coalition will be reporting on Canadian drug policy and putting forward recommendations for a new direction for the country's response to issues related to the production and use of substances. We hope you will join us in this work as we move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald MacPherson".

**DONALD MACPHERSON**  
*Executive Director*  
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

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# FROM THE CHAIR

It is amazing to see how a seed that was planted years ago by a few of us has grown into what is now the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition. What started off as a casual conversation between Canadian delegates at the International Drug Policy Reform Conference in New Orleans in 2007 grew into an ongoing project comprised of individuals and organizations working on drug policy issues.

We started off meeting by teleconference, courtesy of the Canadian AIDS Society. When the Canadian government first proposed a crime bill in 2008, which was later to become the Safe Streets and Communities Act, some of us responded by beginning to strategize collectively. We worked together to unify our voices to respond to the proposed bill, which would have significant and lasting effects on Canadian drug policy.



Through this collective work, we quickly saw a need to organize at the national level, and a small working group began to prepare for the founding of a national network for drug policy reform. Representatives from 30 diverse organizations were invited to attend a meeting in Vancouver in May, 2009, where a strategic plan was developed to found the Coalition. Thanks to the financial support of the Open Society Foundations, the MAC AIDS Fund and a few private donations, the CDPC was launched in Ottawa in March, 2011. In May of 2011, CDPC partnered with the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction and the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University to work together to promote dialogue and action towards improving Canada's drug policies.

The first year of operation focused on establishing a governance structure, a Policy Working Group and hiring a team of stellar, motivated and dedicated personnel. We launched our foundational document, *Changing the Frame*, to begin the drug policy reform conversation. The accomplishments of our first year have been exciting. We hope that Canada and the world is catching on that we are the collective voice for drug policy reform in Canada.

Looking ahead, we will refine our governance structure and work on involving our members more efficiently. We will continue to network and bring more members on board. We will ride the exciting wave of drug policy reform that is sweeping the globe. Together we can find better solutions to address substance use in our society while taking better care of each other.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Belle-Isle".

**LYNNE BELLE-ISLE**  
Chair, National Steering Committee  
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

# CHANGING THE FRAME

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## "DECRIMINALIZE DRUG USE, NEW COALITION URGES" —*Ottawa Citizen*

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Released in February 2012, *Changing the Frame* is CDPC's foundational document. It calls on the federal government to rethink its approach to Canada's drug policies and offers a detailed account of why the current drug policy regime isn't working and how it can be fixed.

The issues surrounding drug policy cannot be remedied with catchall solutions; the harms that stem from both drug use and drug enforcement are complex and require research and evidence to be effectively addressed. But above all else, the strategies we use to respond to these problems must be guided by principles. To this end, we have used *Changing the Frame* as an opportunity to emphasize the need for all levels of government to adopt a comprehensive health, social and human rights approach to substance use.

Upon its release, *Changing the Frame* was met with much excitement, media coverage and optimism. Since then, we have built upon this momentum and used it to help connect and strengthen the activities of those individuals and groups from across Canada who are working to improve our nation's drug policies.

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**"CANADA NEEDS TO GIVE UP THE WAR ON DRUGS AND START TREATING DRUG USE AS A HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUE RATHER THAN SOMETHING FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO DEAL WITH, ACCORDING TO A POLICY GROUP THAT WAS FORMALLY LAUNCHED THURSDAY. THE CANADIAN DRUG POLICY COALITION IS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CALLING FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO DECRIMINALIZE DRUG USE AND NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF HARM-REDUCTION PROGRAMS, SUCH AS SAFE-INJECTION SITES."** —*Vancouver Sun*



CDPC's foundational policy document, "*Changing the Frame: A New Approach to Drug Policy in Canada*", was released on February 9, 2012.



A press conference participant reads "*Changing the Frame: A New Approach to Drug Policy in Canada*" in Montreal, QC.

# THE COALITION

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**"WE HAVE MAINSTREAMED THE CONVERSATION. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PART OF THIS MOVEMENT. WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIGURE OUT HOW TO MOBILIZE OUR ENERGY AND CAUSE FEDERAL POLITICIANS TO PAY ATTENTION. THE PRIME MINISTER IS A VERY SMART POLITICIAN. ONE DAY HE'LL WAKE UP AND REALIZE HE IS SWIMMING AGAINST THE TIDE OF CANADIANS ON THIS ISSUE AND WE'LL SEE CHANGE. I BELIEVE IT."**

—Geoff Plant, former Attorney General of BC on CTV news

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Since its inception, CDPC has steadily built up our coalition of affiliations, supporters and members. Our coalition now consists of 50 NGOs and over 4,000 supporters. Our members are prolific leaders in their respective fields, coming from the world of addiction services, HIV/AIDS, public policy, health, academia, law, law enforcement, youth engagement and human rights. CDPC enjoys a robust relationship with our members, collaborating with them in a number of ways, including communications, public education, dialogue, research and capacity building.

The purpose of the Coalition is multifaceted, but united in one common goal: to bring together and strengthen the capacity of those working towards better drug policies. The issues our members and supporters deal with are diverse, and it is the role of the Coalition to provide assistance and support wherever necessary.

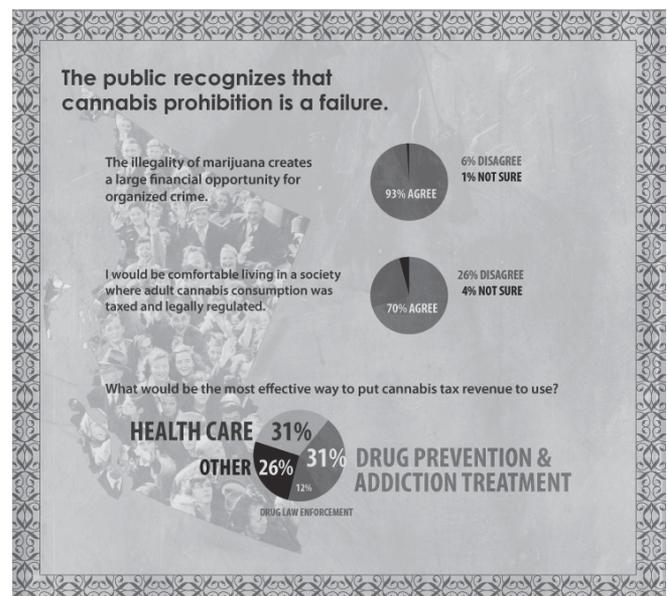
As the issues inherent to drug use and its legislation affect all of us in many different ways, from public health concerns to issues of equality and economy, we are looking forward to working with new members from a diverse array of social groups and institutions. In the coming months, we are planning on strengthening and diversifying the Coalition by seeking membership and participation from groups and individuals in fields not typically connected to drug policy.

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## SPOTLIGHT: STOP THE VIOLENCE BC

CDPC supports a wide range of organizations that are working towards better drug policies in Canada. One such organization is the Stop the Violence BC Coalition (STV-BC), of which CDPC is a founding and active member. Comprised of British Columbia's leading experts in law enforcement, the law, medicine and public health, STV-BC advocates for a strictly regulated cannabis market operated under a public health model as a strategy to undermine organized crime and better manage the province's rates of cannabis use.

Over the past year, STV-BC has achieved many successes in terms of pushing the cannabis debate forward throughout British Columbia and has recently received the backing of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and a number of active politicians, including MLA Kash Heed and MLA Joan McIntyre.



Graphic by Stop the Violence BC.

# POLICY WORK

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Our policy work is aimed at pushing for change in areas of drug legislation where institutional support is lacking or in need of reform. During our first year of operations we established two national policy working groups to address areas we identified as in need of critical reform – one on supervised consumption and the other on overdose prevention and response.

These groups are comprised of a combination of individuals working on the ground and those involved in research. Their purpose is to provide advice to the Coalition on the development of policy briefs and positions, and to inform our public outreach and advocacy activities.



*Susan Boyd of CDPC speaks to the media in Oppenheimer Park, Vancouver, BC.*

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## OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

One of the most tragic consequences of the current drug policy is the prevalence of avoidable overdose deaths, which continues to be a serious but neglected issue across Canada.

Most overdoses are preventable and there are simple, easily implemented strategies that can save the lives of people who use drugs. Overdose prevention strategies, including providing access to Naloxone, supervised injection, education, and Good Samaritan laws, have been shown to be effective in reducing deaths and increasing awareness of overdose.

To facilitate the development of a comprehensive brief on this issue, we have convened a team of experts who work directly with overdose prevention and response from across Canada. The purpose of this group is to advise on key policy issues related to overdose, and to network and share information across jurisdictions on the challenges and successes related to overdose prevention and response programs.



*Participants gather in Halifax, NS for the event "People and Policies: How do Drug Policies Impact the Health of our Communities?" Photo by Wooden Shoe Photography.*

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## SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION

There is a strong evidence base for supervised consumption services to be included as basic components of any comprehensive strategy to minimize harm from substance use. Over 40 peer-reviewed studies have concluded that consumption sites, such as Vancouver's Insite, provide an irrefutable public health service to both their users and the surrounding communities.

A scientific evaluation of Insite carried out by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and the Department of Medicine at the University of British Columbia has shown that supervised consumption services provide the following benefits :

1. REDUCTION OF OVERDOSE MORTALITY
2. A GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF DRUG USERS STOPPING INJECTION DRUG USE
3. INCREASED USE OF ADDICTION TREATMENT
4. A REDUCTION IN SYRINGE SHARING
5. INCREASED SAFER INJECTION PRACTICES
6. A REDUCTION IN HIV AND HEPATITIS C TRANSMISSION
7. INCREASED PUBLIC SAFETY
8. A REDUCTION IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In the wake of the decision of the Supreme Court to support the right for Vancouver's supervised injection site to remain open [September, 2011], several groups across Canada have expressed interest in establishing supervised consumption services in their communities.

The need for similar services in other urban centres was reinforced by a feasibility study conducted by researchers at the University of Toronto and staff at St. Michael's Hospital, which recommended that safe consumption sites be established in Toronto and Ottawa. In the province of Quebec, work is underway to finalize a plan to implement supervised injection services in Montreal and Quebec City. In several other municipalities there are also formal and informal processes underway that will consider establishing these services.

CDPC is working with the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network to produce a policy brief and guidelines for scaling-up supervised consumption services in Canada. To strengthen this process we have convened a working group that will act as a vehicle for information sharing and strategic planning to support the implementation of further initiatives.



*Columbian Senator Juan Manuel Galán (right) tours Vancouver's supervised injection site, Insite, with Liz Evans (centre) and Colombian Consul General Jairo Clopatofsky Ghisays (left).*



*Participants register with volunteers at the "Canadian Conference on AIDS/HIV Research 2012: Integrating Supervised Injection Service into Health Care and Community: A National Knowledge Exchange" in Montreal, QC.*

# RESEARCH

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# REPORT

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## CURRENT PROJECTS

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CDPC is currently working on a number of research projects taking place at universities across Canada. In each project, CDPC functions as a research partner and contributes resources and expertise.

Current projects include:

1. *Describing the Scale and Scope of Harm Reduction Services in Canada: Current Challenges and Future Directions.* Cameron Wild, Principal Investigator, University of Alberta. Proposal submitted to CIHR on October 15th, 2012. CDPC is a collaborator.
2. *Building Capacity Among People Who Use Drugs: Reducing Stigma and Fostering Inclusion of Experiential Knowledge in Harm Reduction Research, Policy Development, and Service Delivery.* Bernie Pauly, Lynne Belle-Isle, Co-Principal Investigators, Centre for Addictions Research of BC, University of Victoria, in partnership with the Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID). Proposal submitted to CIHR on October 15th, 2012. CDPC is a collaborator.
3. *Show me the Evidence: Amassing Evidence to Drive the Reformulation of Effective Health Services for People who Smoke Crack.* Lynne Leonard, Principal Investigator, University of Ottawa. Proposal submitted to CIHR on October 15th, 2012. CDPC is a collaborator.
4. Connection Grant to support a workshop/conference on *Rethinking Regulatory Models for all Substances.* Susan Boyd, Principal Investigator, University of Victoria. Proposal submitted to SSHRC. CDPC is a co-applicant.

## A REVIEW OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DRUG POLICY

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One of the biggest obstacles we face in promoting more effective and sensible drug laws is a general lack of understanding of how our current policies are functioning and how resources are being allocated.

To resolve this, we are currently preparing a report on Canadian drug policy. The CDPC report will examine policies from across the country and provide an analysis of the effectiveness and weaknesses of regional and national drug policies, as well as Canada's role in an international context.

Due out in March of 2013, this report will assess the state of Canada's drug policy frameworks using a public health, social inclusion and human rights lens.

Our critical assessment of policy frameworks will reveal the extent to which our governments are committed to effective policies that prevent and reduce harms associated with drugs and will provide recommendations for alternatives to criminalization. This report will provide the baseline data for future reports on drug policy in Canada and it will be a cornerstone in the Coalition's advocacy work.

# PUBLIC EVENTS

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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, CDPC HAS FACILITATED AND ENGAGED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF EVENTS, BOTH IN CANADA AND ABROAD. THESE INCLUDE PUBLIC DIALOGUES, WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES.

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The goal of our participation in these events is to encourage dialogue and debate, to educate the public and to continually build a movement towards better drug policies. These events play a critical role in marshaling support for reform. While dysfunctional and unjust drug laws are a global problem that require international cooperation, it is often at the local level where the public is best inspired to mobilize for change.

The scope of the events that CDPC organizes and takes part in are both broad and concentrated, with certain events focusing on issues specific to municipalities and regions, as well as those relevant to national and international concerns.

*Tracey Morrison of VANDU volunteers during an event supported by CDPC at Oppenheimer Park (September 22, 2012) in Vancouver, BC.*



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# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past year, CDPC has organized and attended 43 events, taking place across Canada, North, South and Central America.

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## 2011

*Healthy Neighbourhoods: What we can do about Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs – A Neighbourhood Dialogue*  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, November 29th, 2011

In partnership with the Health Officers Council of BC and the Collingwood Neighbourhood House, the CDPC was launched with a community dialogue in Vancouver.

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## 2012

*Drogas: Un balance a un siglo de su prohibicion (Drugs: A Report on a Century of Prohibition)*  
Mexico City, Mexico, January 26th, 2012

There are significant efforts being taken in Mexico to consider alternatives to the current situation that has taken the lives of over 60,000 Mexican citizens in the past 6 years. CDPC members were invited to participate in this process and give presentations at this conference organized by Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia.

*Release of Changing the Frame: A New Approach to Drug Policy in Canada*  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, February 9th, 2012

CDPC travelled to the Charles Lynch Press Theatre on Parliament Hill to launch *Changing the Frame*, our foundational policy document that calls for a new approach to drug policy in Canada.

*Canadian Conference on AIDS/HIV Research 2012: Integrating Supervised Injection Service into Health Care and Community: A National Knowledge Exchange*  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada, April 19th, 2012

CDPC co-hosted an event that focused on the work taking place on supervised consumption services across Canada and the integration of these services into health care and their communities.



Caleb Chepesiuk of Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy shakes hands with a conference participant at the 2011 Harm Reduction Conference in Ottawa, ON.

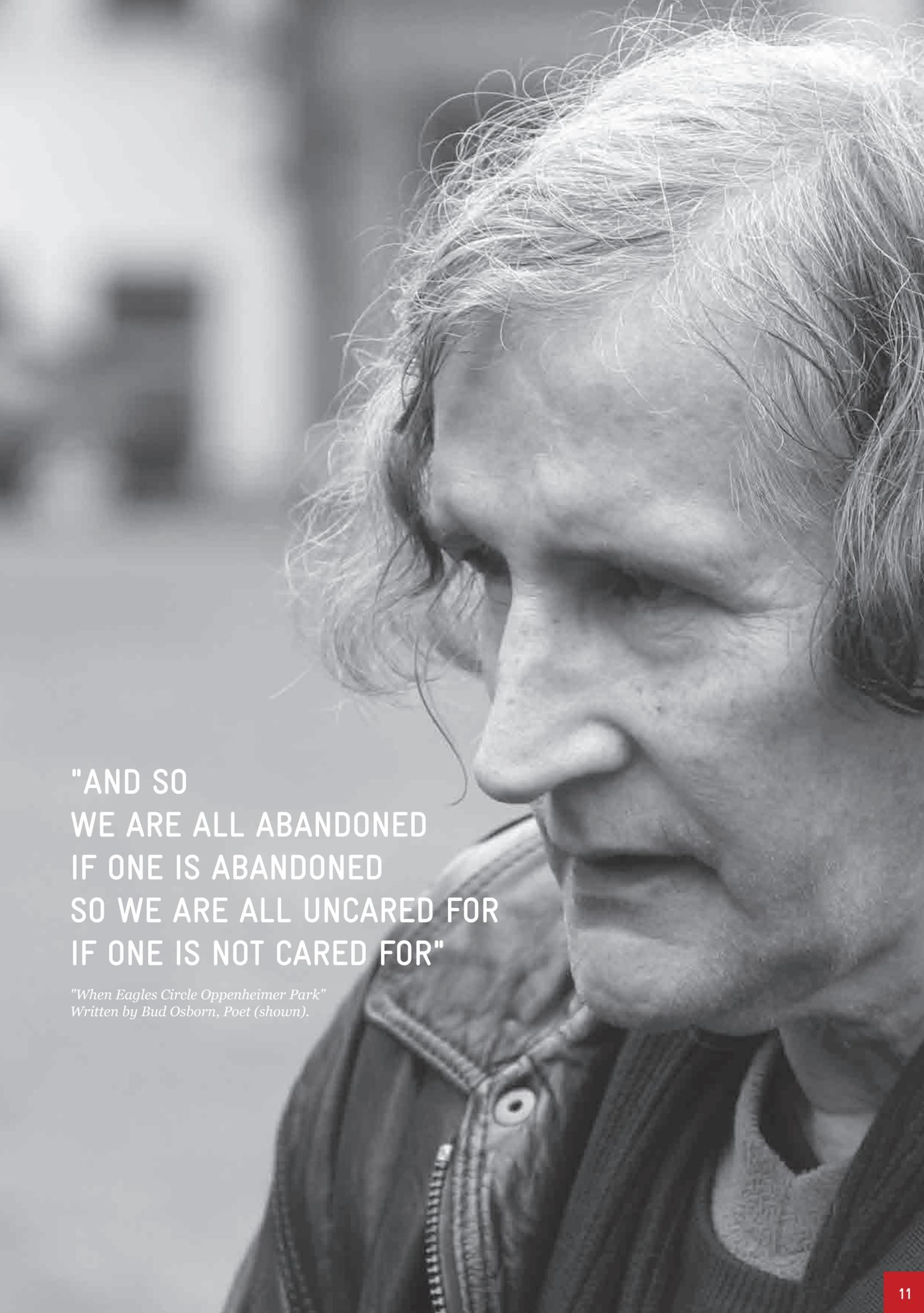


Left to right: Aiyannis Ormond (VANDU) with Omar Caliente and Deborah Peterson Small (Break the Chains) in Vancouver, BC.

*People and Policies: How do Drug Policies Impact the Health of our Communities?*  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, May 9th, 2012

An interactive discussion of what works and what doesn't in the area of drug policy in Atlantic Canada. Donald MacPherson participated as a panelist along with Dr. Tim Christie (Regional Director, Horizon Health Network, NB), Verlene Joseph (Nurse Practitioner, Elsipogtog First Nations, NB), Patti Melanson (Coordinator, Mobile Outreach Street Health, NS) and Peggy O'Reilly (Community Health Nurse, Indian Brook Health Center, NS).

The event was organized by Dalhousie University and the Atlantic Interdisciplinary Research Network.



"AND SO  
WE ARE ALL ABANDONED  
IF ONE IS ABANDONED  
SO WE ARE ALL UNCARED FOR  
IF ONE IS NOT CARED FOR"

*"When Eagles Circle Oppenheimer Park"  
Written by Bud Osborn, Poet (shown).*

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# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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## 2012

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### *Drugs and the City*

*Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, May 15th, 2012*

In partnership with AIDS Saint John and the Urban and Community Studies Institute, at the University of New Brunswick, CDPC convened the event “Drugs and the City”, where an overflowing crowd heard from Saint John Police Chief Bill Reid, Dr. Tim Christie and Donald MacPherson.

### *Quebec Association of Addictions Frontline Workers: 26th Meeting of Harm Reduction Frontline Workers*

*Longueuil, Quebec, Canada, May 16th, 2012*

In collaboration with Dr. Thomas Kerr of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Richard Elliott, Executive Director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, CDPC Chair Lynne Belle-Isle presented “L’expérience Insite : leçons à tirer pour le Québec.” [The Insite experience : Lessons for Quebec to draw on].

### *Pot, Pills and Parties*

*Thunder Bay, ON, May 24th*

Donald MacPherson served as keynote speaker at the event, which concerned how new federal crime legislation would impact youth and was organized by Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy and Thunder Bay Drug Strategy.

### *Conversatorias 2012: “New alternatives of intervention in the consumption of drugs and psychoactive substances”*

*Bogotá, Columbia, September 5th-6th, 2012*

At this public dialogue initiated by the mayor of Bogotá, Donald MacPherson presented on Vancouver’s drug strategy, harm reduction, and supervised consumption sites.

### *A Summit to End the War on Drugs: Baltimore & Beyond Borders*

*Baltimore, MD, USA, September 8th-9th, 2012*

Alongside Javier Sicilia, the Drug Policy Alliance and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, Gillian Maxwell of CDPC presented on a number of topics, including the Canadian experience with drug policy reform and Insite, Vancouver’s supervised injection site.

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## AIDS 2012

*Washington, D.C., USA, July 22nd – 27th, 2012*

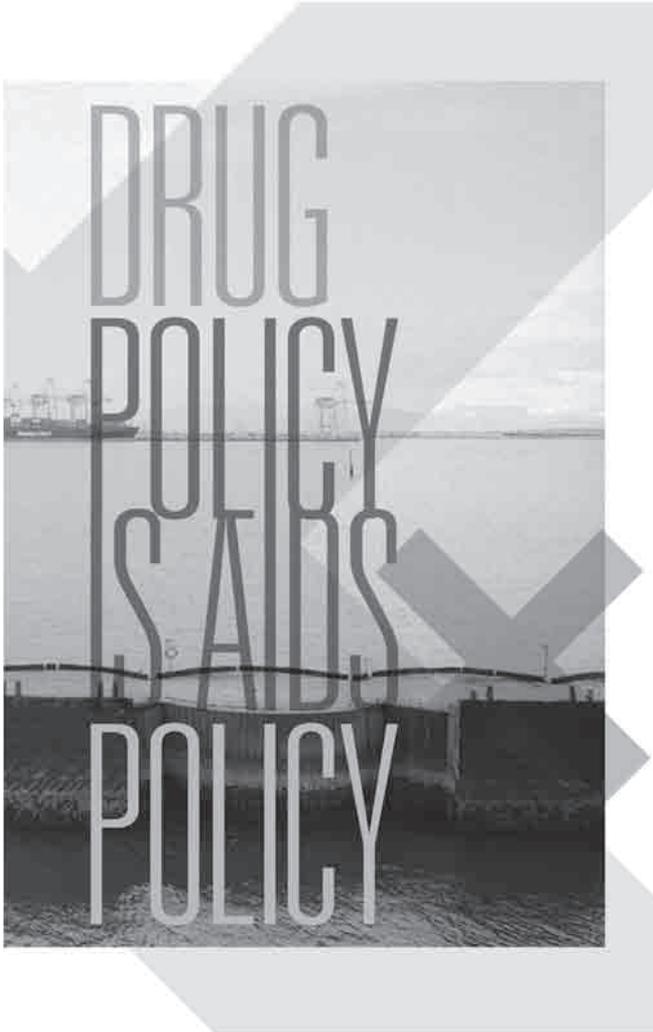
As HIV/AIDS remains central to drug policy reform, attending the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C., was an excellent opportunity to showcase the Canadian situation and share our experience with groups and individuals from around the world. CDPC hosted a very active booth in the Global Village and participated in several panels and workshops.

For conference materials, CDPC collaborated with a Vancouver-based design team and produced a newspaper entitled “AIDS Policy is Drug Policy” that detailed the connection between HIV/AIDS and drug policy. The newspaper contained contributions from a group of acclaimed personalities, including Prof. David Nutt, journalist Dan Gardner and others. In addition to the paper’s one-time print run of 1,000 copies, the paper was also distributed digitally in PDF and Issuu formats.

CDPC also created a liveblog/tumblr for the conference, *drugpolicyxids.com*, which served to compliment the newspaper content and chronicled the event as it happened, providing photographs, video and insight into conference proceedings.



*CDPC's Executive Director, Donald MacPherson, with Methadone Man at the AIDS 2012 Conference in Washington, D.C.*



CDPC's newspaper, "Drug Policy is AIDS Policy" was a popular read during the AIDS 2012 Conference in Washington, D.C.



Stephen Lewis reads CDPC's "Drug Policy is AIDS Policy" newspaper at the AIDS 2012 Conference in Washington, D.C.

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"THE GLOBAL WAR ON DRUGS IS DRIVING THE HIV PANDEMIC AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS AND THEIR SEXUAL PARTNERS. THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, RESEARCH HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN THAT REPRESSIVE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES FORCE DRUG USERS AWAY FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AND INTO HIDDEN ENVIRONMENTS WHERE HIV RISK BECOMES MARKEDLY ELEVATED. MASS INCARCERATION OF NONVIOLENT DRUG OFFENDERS ALSO PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN SPREADING THE PANDEMIC. TODAY, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 33 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE LIVING WITH HIV – AND INJECTION DRUG USE ACCOUNTS FOR ONE-THIRD OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS OUTSIDE OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA."

—The Global Commission on Drug Policy

# CDPC IN THE MEDIA

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## "HAS THE DRUG WAR FAILED?"

—CTV Power Play

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## "PUSHING FOR DRUG POLICY CHANGE AT THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS."

—Vancouver Sun

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## "THE END OF HIV/AIDS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IF THE WAR ON DRUGS CONTINUES."

—The Guardian

Drug policy presents us with complex problems and challenges with many distinct elements at play. Unfortunately, poor reportage is one of the biggest impediments we face in helping the public understand the issues. For this reason, it is incredibly important that we maintain an aggressive and concise media strategy.

We are seeking to establish our members as Canada's primary go-to source for media coverage of drug-related issues, policy or otherwise. To this end, we submit op-eds and issue press releases when possible and have been successful in maintaining a presence across television, radio, print and new media throughout the year.

In terms of general strategy, CDPC pursues a multi-platform dissemination model, bringing together traditional approaches to existing media outlets with an energetic digital and social media presence.

We have steadily built up this online presence over the past year and are now able to communicate with thousands of Canadians directly through our Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, email and the CDPC website. Our goal is to keep drug policy in the public eye, to provoke debate, facilitate grounded discussion, and educate the public on the facts of evidence-based drug policy.

Beginning in July of this year, we began to augment our outreach activities with in-house media production across a variety of platforms. Going forward, CDPC is currently working on developing a national advertising campaign that will assist the public in better understanding drug policy and the issues that surround drug use.



CDPC's Executive Director, Donald MacPherson, speaks with the media in Bogotá, Colombia.



Press conference during World AIDS Day 2011 in Vancouver, BC.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

**1550** TWITTER FOLLOWERS  
**1375** FACEBOOK LIKES  
**20,000** UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS



*Irene Goldstone speaks with Senator Pierre Claude Nolin at a press conference on safe injection sites in Montreal, QC.*

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## COVERAGE

CDPC's work has received ample coverage from local, national and international media, including the following outlets:

### **145** MEDIA APPEARANCES OR REFERENCES

METRO VANCOUVER  
METRO MONTREAL  
VANCOUVER SUN  
THE PROVINCE  
NATIONAL POST  
CBC RADIO  
CBC NEWS  
CTV NEWS  
GLOBAL NEWS  
CALGARY HERALD  
OTTAWA CITIZEN  
MONTREAL GAZETTE  
THE TYEE  
TORONTO STAR  
IPOLITICS  
THE GUARDIAN (UK)  
SALON  
EL ESPECTADOR  
CKNW  
CFAX 1070  
OPENFILE  
ANIMAL NY  
MEGAPHONE MAGAZINE

# LATIN AMERICA

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With an understanding that real progress in drug policy reform requires the involvement of advocates from across North, Central and South America, we are working to expand our partnerships with our regional allies to help us all achieve more sensible drug policies in our respective countries.



## CANADIAN DRUG POLICY DOES NOT EXIST IN A VACUUM – OUR POLICIES AFFECT OUR NEIGHBOURS AND THEIR POLICIES AFFECT US.

One of the cornerstones of this activity is a proposed North American Drug Policy Reform Strategy. In San Francisco last April, CDPC led a process with representatives from organizations in Canada, the US and Mexico to explore the concept of creating such a strategy. The San Francisco meeting resulted in a commitment to create a North American Drug Policy Agreement that acknowledges the impact of domestic drug policies on neighbouring countries and recognizes the following:

1. The first principle of the United Nations treaties on drug control is the protection of public health.
2. The interconnected nature of North America's markets, including its drug markets, and the importance of a drug strategy that works for all three countries.
3. The growing consensus that the current approach of drug prohibition is not working and that new options need to be considered.
4. Calls for change have been growing louder and more frequent. These include key reports from the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, the Global Commission on Drug Policy, and recent statements from political leaders, legislatures, civil society organizations, and the ongoing Organization of American States drug policy study process.

*(Opposite page) A participant of the Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity in Washington, D.C.*



*Belen Asenció of the Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity speaks during a press conference in Washington, D.C.*



*CDPC's Executive Director, Donald MacPherson, speaks about drug strategy reform during a public dialogue initiated by the Mayor of Bogotá, in Bogotá, Colombia.*



*CDPC's Executive Director, Donald MacPherson, sits with panelists from Colombia and the United States to discuss drug strategies on September 5th-6th, 2012 in Bogotá, Colombia.*

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# LATIN AMERICA

## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

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### REVIEW OF DRUG POLICY IN THE HEMISPHERE

In April of 2012, the heads of governments of the member states of the OAS met in Cartagena, Colombia for the 6th Summit of the Americas. At this meeting it was agreed that the OAS would undertake a review of the existing drug policies in the hemisphere and put forward alternatives to the many issues that the region is facing. CDPC's Executive Director, Donald MacPherson, has been invited by the OAS to participate as part of a 35-member team that will be charged with building alternative scenarios during two 4-day workshops to take place in January and March of 2013, that will identify different possibilities for addressing drug problems in the hemisphere.

CDPC also participated in the workshop "Ending the War on Drugs: Making the Case in Latin America", in Mexico City, November 21 – 22, 2012. This workshop was organized by the Transform Drug Policy Foundation and México Unido Contra la Delincuencia with the goal of developing new resources and strategic thinking to support drug law reform in Latin America.



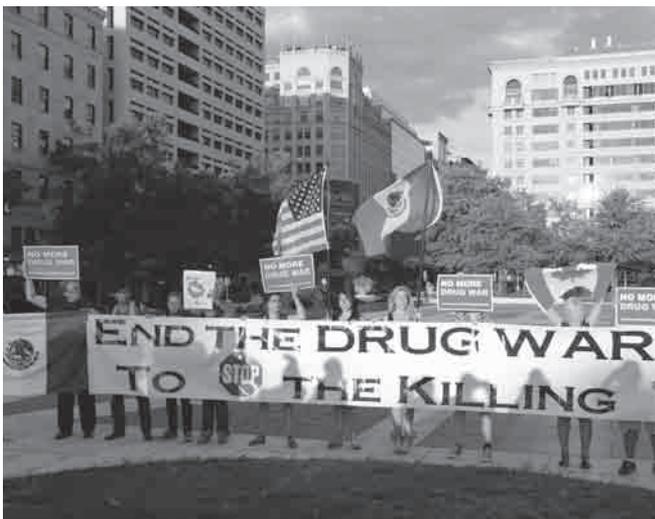
*The audience listens to panel discussions regarding drug law reform in Bogotá, Colombia.*



*Gustavo Petro, the Mayor of Bogotá, speaks during panel discussions regarding drug law reform in Bogotá, Colombia.*



*Gillian Maxwell, of CDPC's Executive Committee (left), marches with the Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity in Washington, D.C.*



*Caravan participants hold a banner advocating for an end to the war on drugs in Washington, D.C.*



*Javier Sicilia (right) of the Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity speaks to an audience while traveling to Washington, D.C.*

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## CARAVAN FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE AND DIGNITY

CDPC participated in Javier Sicilia's Caravan for Peace with Justice and Dignity when they finished their month-long trek across the United States in Washington, D.C., on September 12th, 2012. Sicilia, as he is called in Mexico, is a well-known poet whose son was killed by drug gangs in 2011. He became the leader of a civil society movement for peace as he grieved his son's death and went on to become a lightning rod for ordinary Mexican citizens fed up with the continuing and escalating violence, death and disruption caused by the war on the drug cartels.

In May of 2011, Sicilia led a march from Cuernavaca to the Zocolo in Mexico that drew over 200,000 people to protest the continuing violence. On August 12th, 2012, Sicilia and 70 victims of the drug war, those who have lost loved ones, crossed the Mexico/US border at Tijuana and started a journey across the US to raise awareness of the impact that US drug policies have on the situation in Mexico. During the final leg of the trip, CDPC members joined Sicilia and the many Caravan members to take part in public dialogues in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D.C., to call for an end to the war on drugs. CDPC has been a proud supporter of the Caravan, and provided assistance for its social media activities and press relations throughout the trip.



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# A NEW DRUG POLICY FOR CANADA

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**CANADA IS AT A CROSSROADS.  
THE CURRENT APPROACH TO CANADA'S  
"DRUG PROBLEM" IS NOT WORKING.**

It relies far too heavily on the criminalization of people and punitive policies. It's expensive, wasteful, ineffective, damaging to those who are most in need and taking us down a well worn path where other governments have had little success. A new approach is possible.

**IT IS TIME FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS.**

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CDPC will foster informed public dialogue, advance policy and program innovations that will have a significant impact on reducing the harms related to substance use in Canada. It will engage policy makers and decision makers across the country towards building a new drug policy for Canada.

Over the coming months the Coalition will begin to build the blueprint for a new drug policy and present it to Canadians for their input, feedback and support. We hope you will join us to create an alternative approach to drug problems that will benefit all members of our communities.

# OUR VISION

# AND LOGIC

A SAFE, HEALTHY AND JUST CANADA IN WHICH DRUG POLICY AND LEGISLATION AS WELL AS RELATED INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE ARE BASED ON EVIDENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES	SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES	MID-TERM OUTCOMES	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES
PRODUCING & ADVANCING CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	EFFECTIVE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	POLICY & LEGISLATIVE CHANGE	<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced illness &amp; death related to drug use</li> <li>2. Accessible, effective health &amp; social services for people who use drugs</li> <li>3. Social inclusion for people who use drugs</li> </ol>
BUILDING SUSTAINABLE, MUTUALLY ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS	EFFECTIVE NETWORKS	IMPROVED SERVICES & SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prevention of crime</li> <li>2. Reduced victimization from crime</li> <li>3. End of criminalization of people who use drugs</li> </ol>
ASSEMBLING & DISSEMINATING CLEAR INFORMATION & ANALYSIS	ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	EFFECTIVE & SUSTAINABLE COALITION	<b>SOCIAL COSTS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced government spending on prisons</li> <li>2. More cost effective government spending on health &amp; safety</li> <li>3. Reduced indirect costs from crime and disability</li> </ol>
FOSTERING PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE & ACTION WITHIN CIVIL SOCIETY	CREDIBLE & COMPELLING INFORMATION	EDUCATED DECISION-MAKERS	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamental liberties &amp; freedoms for people who use drugs</li> <li>2. International drug control efforts that respect human rights</li> </ol>

# PARTNERS IN CHANGE

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## AFFILIATIONS, SUPPORTERS, MEMBERS AND FUNDERS

Simon Fraser University  
Open Society Foundations  
MAC AIDS Fund  
Individual donors

Cactus Montréal  
Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network  
AIDS Vancouver Island  
AIDS Saint John  
Canadian Harm Reduction Network  
Carnegie Community Centre  
Keeping the Door Open  
Trip Project  
AIDS Committee of Durham Region  
Méta d'Âme  
From Grief to Action  
Thunder Bay Drug Strategy  
Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users  
Health Officers Council of BC  
Pivot Legal Society  
Educators for Sensible Drug Policy  
AIDS Network Kootenay Outreach and Support Society  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Canadian AIDS Society  
Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries  
Urban Health Research Initiative  
Unified Networkers of Drug Users Nationally  
Canadian Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Direction 180  
British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS  
University of Victoria (Centre for Addictions Research of BC)  
Groupe de recherche et d'intervention psychosociale (GRIP)  
Association québécoise pour la promotion de la santé  
des personnes utilisatrices de drogues (AQPSUD)  
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health & Addictions  
International Drug Policy Consortium  
AIDS Saskatoon  
Canadian Foundation for Drug Policy  
Watari  
Island Chaplaincy Inc.  
Medical Cannabis Access Society  
AIDS Committee of Newfoundland

Kingston Compassion Club Society  
InnerChange Foundation  
Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan  
Victoria AIDS Resource and Community Service Society  
Sandy Hill Community Health Centre  
The Federation of Community Social Services of BC  
Okanagan College Drug Policy Group  
Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre  
Groupe Harmonie  
Head & Hands  
Blood Ties Four Directions Centre  
Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (Canada)  
Boyle Street Community Services

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## 2011-2012 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Figures below are approximate.

### *Summary*

Total Assets: \$317,000  
Total Expenses: \$188,000  
Available assets at end of 2011-2012 fiscal year: \$129,000

### *Expenses*

Program Salaries: \$115,000.00  
Program Supplies: \$3,000  
Program Expenses: \$49,000  
Administrative Costs: \$21,000  
Total Expenses: \$188,000

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## STAFF MEMBERS

Beginning in the first quarter of 2012, CDPC started to build its staff team, and has since hired a policy analyst, communications coordinator and program coordinator.

*Donald MacPherson, Adjunct Professor  
Simon Fraser University*

Donald MacPherson is the Executive Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition and one of Canada's leading figures in drug policy. In 2000 he authored Vancouver's groundbreaking Four Pillars Drug Strategy that precipitated a broad public discussion on issues related to addiction. In 2007 he received the Kaiser Foundation National Award of Excellence in Public Policy in Canada. In 2009 MacPherson was awarded the Richard Dennis Drug Peace Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Drug Policy Reform by the Drug Policy Alliance in the United States. MacPherson worked for the City of Vancouver as Drug Policy Coordinator for 12 years before becoming a founder of CDPC.

*Connie Carter, PhD*

Senior Policy Analyst at CDPC and a graduate of the University of Victoria's Department of Sociology. She received a Bombardier Fellowship for her work analyzing citizen groups and government policy-makers as they responded to the issue of crystal meth use in BC in the early 2000s.

*Caroline Mousseau, BFA*

Caroline received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Emily Carr University of Art + Design in 2012. She works to advocate social inclusion and creative collaboration. Caroline was awarded the Riel Prize for Community Development in 2012 for co-founding the popular charitable project Jazz for Humanity in Winnipeg, MB.

*Douglas Haddow, BA*

With a background in marketing and advertising, Douglas worked as a journalist before coming to CDPC. His work has appeared in The Guardian, Adbusters, Slate, Colors, Vancouver Magazine and many other publications.

*Heiko Decosas, MA*

Heiko Decosas is a graduate of the SFU School of Communication and works in the field of public health communication. He has experience in health policy research, knowledge transfer and exchange, strategic communications, broadcast media, and new media production. He currently lives in Vancouver, BC and works for the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition and the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network.



*CDPC staff members. Top row: Connie Carter and Douglas Haddow. Centre: Heiko Decosas. Bottom row: Donald MacPherson and Caroline Mousseau. Headshots by Kirsten Berlie.*

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## STEERING COMMITTEE

*Lynne Belle-Isle - Steering Committee Chair  
Walter Cavaleri - Steering Committee Vice Chair  
Donald MacPherson - Executive Director \*Ex officio  
Gillian Maxwell - Executive Committee  
Brent Taylor - Executive Committee  
Eugene Oscapella - Policy Committee  
Susan Boyd - Policy Committee  
Marliss Taylor - Steering Committee  
Philippe Lucas - Steering Committee  
Guy Pierre Levesque - Steering Committee  
Michaela Montaner - Steering Committee  
Julie Dingwell - Steering Committee*

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THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**2011-2012: BUILDING A MOVEMENT**  
**© CANADIAN DRUG POLICY COALITION**  
**DECEMBER 2012**

Canadian Drug Policy Coalition (CDPC)  
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**DRUGPOLICY.CA**



ENGAGING THE WORLD