

Alcohol and Drug Services



Mount Pleasant

City of Vancouver
Community
planning program

City Role

The City supports the development of a broad continuum of services related to alcohol and drug problems within Vancouver based on the “four pillars” of Prevention, Treatment, Enforcement and Harm Reduction. City council approved *A Framework for Action – A Four Pillar Approach to Drug Problems in Vancouver* on May 15, 2001.

The City’s role in this area includes problem identification with local communities and working with other levels of governments to ensure the appropriate location and level of service exist within the community.

Four Pillars

Each pillar requires the interaction and support of the other three to help this city-wide framework improve public order and public health. In addition, all four pillars must be linked to other municipal strategies, such as business development strategies, community safety initiatives and other health and housing strategies that aim to improve the overall well-being of the community:

Prevention refers to strategies and interventions that help prevent harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and both illegal and prescription drugs. In November 2005, Vancouver City Council unanimously endorsed the drug policy prevention plan, *Preventing Harm from Psychoactive Substance Use*. The plan seeks: reduced individual, family, neighbourhood and community harm from substance use; delayed onset of first substance use; reduced incidence (rate of new cases over a period of

time) and prevalence (number of current cases at one time in a population) of problematic substance use and substance dependence; and improved public health, safety and order.

Treatment consists of a continuum of interventions and support programs that enable individuals with addiction problems to make healthier decisions about their lives and move towards abstinence.

Enforcement recognizes the need for peace, public order and safety in the Downtown Eastside and other Vancouver neighbourhoods, like Mount Pleasant. The VPD drug policy says that the VPD will continue to target street and middle-level drug traffickers and producers. Police are guided by an individual’s behaviour in determining whether or not to lay drug or alcohol possession charges. Police also target areas frequented by children, such as schools and parks, and other areas where possession or use of drugs could interfere with lawful use of the public areas by members of the community. Police officers will continue to work to improve coordination with health services and other agencies that link drug users to immediate medical care, withdrawal management (detox), treatment and other counselling and prevention services

Harm Reduction involves establishing a hierarchy of achievable goals which, when taken step by step, can lead to a healthier life for drug users and a healthier community for everyone. Vancouver’s harm reduction programs include the

supervised injection site (SIS), needle exchanges and low-threshold community health services

The City does not fund, nor run programs related to alcohol and drug services. These services are provided throughout the city by the Provincial Ministry of Health Services (MHS).

Ministry of Health Services (MHS)

Vancouver Coastal Health

Addiction Services operates a network of addiction services for substance use problems. The core addiction services are: Counselling Services, Needle Exchange Services, Opiate Replacement Therapy, Withdrawal Management Services, and Youth Prevention Services. For information call 604-736-2033

Services in Mount Pleasant

In Mount Pleasant addiction services are provided through **Raven Song Community Health Centre**, located at 2450 Ontario Street, offering a range of services including primary care, prevention services for youth, needle exchange, counselling, home detox and methadone maintenance program, call 604-709-6400.

The **Needle Exchange Program**, administered through Raven Song, exchanges new needles for used ones and provides condoms for the prevention and transmission of HIV and other infections, with a particular focus on IV drug users and sex trade workers. In addition, mobile outreach is done by Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS) - 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Serving street-involved children, youth, and adults throughout

Vancouver, primarily the Downtown Eastside and Mount Pleasant areas, call 604-685-6561. The **B.C. Methadone Program** is administered through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. Call 604-733-7758. The methadone clinic in Mount Pleasant is located at Raven Song Health Clinic.

The Centre for Concurrent Disorders located at 255 E. 12th Ave., supports individuals who have both a chemical dependency disorder and serious psychiatric illness, call 604-255-9843

Western Steps to Recovery – Turning Point (coed) is located at 455 W. 13th Ave. It offers a safe, drug and alcohol free environment; call 604-875-1710.

Watari Research Association is located at 251a, E. 11th Ave., and offers Youth Day Treatment services. Other programs throughout the city offer screening, assessment, case management, treatment planning, individual and group counselling, life skills and referrals: call 604-438-3755 for youth; or call 604-254-6995 for youth and families.

Vancouver Recovery Club (VRC) located at 261 E. 12th Ave. is a safe and drug-free 24-hour drop-in and referral centre that provides immediate support for clients seeking help with addiction and recovery. The VRC offers regular AA, NA, CA, GA meetings, social activities, and job search assistance. For more information call 604-708-9955.

Services Near Mount Pleasant

Aboriginal Health Services located at 2 - 520 W, 6th Ave offers a variety of services including mental wellness and self-esteem, chronic or infectious disease, injury prevention, early childhood, and local community food security, call 604-708-5248

Vancouver Detox at 377 E. 2nd Ave, offers medical withdrawal

management for adults 19 yrs and older. Services include assessment, individual counselling, referral, educational groups, 12-step programs, acupuncture and other alternate therapies, and assistance in the transition to safe/supportive housing, call 866-658-1221

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vancouver located at 2875 St George St. offers the Odyssey II program servicing youth and their families who are affected by substance abuse. Services include individual and family counselling, educational workshops, skill development, recreation, peer support, and peer counselling. Prevention activities include panel talks, peer counsellor training, and social/recreation programs for high-risk youth, call 604-879-8853.

Services in Schools. Alcohol and drug education and prevention programs are available to students and staff at several secondary schools that service the Mount Pleasant area. These schools include Sir Charles Tupper, Vancouver Technical and Gladstone Secondary. All of the secondary school programs extend to the elementary schools located in Mount Pleasant. The alcohol and drug counsellors work out of the **Raven Song Health Eastside Addiction Services Centre.** Programs stress early intervention, prevention and awareness of substance abuse and addiction, call 604-709-6530

Other Services

DAYTOX is a home detox day program for adults whose substance misuse does not require residential detox, call 866-658-1221

From Grief to Action Group lobbies the provincial and federal governments to follow through on their commitment to the Vancouver Agreement. Their Association also lobbies on behalf of BC's existing drug treatment centres and works with other groups planning to open

new treatment centres. This group also supports a harm reduction continuum of care, including needle exchanges and safe injection sites, and improvements to the methadone treatment system, call 604-454-1484

Other Drugs and Alcohol Services and programs:

Alcohol and Drug Information and Referral Services call 604-660-9382, toll free, 1-800-663-1441

Al-Anon for family and friends of alcoholics, call 604-688-1716

Alcoholics Anonymous, call 604-434-3933

Adult Children of Alcoholics, 19 years and older, call 604- 222-1605

Alateen for teenagers of alcoholics, call 604-688-1716

Cocaine Anonymous, call 604- 662-8500

Co-Dependents Anonymous, call 604-515-5585

Crystal Meth Anonymous, call 604-714-3480

Friends of Alcoholics, call 604-688-1716

Nar-Anon family and friends of drug users, call 604-878-8844

Narcotics Anonymous, call 604-873-1018

Parents Forever for parents of addicted children, call 604-524-4230

Rational Recovery, call 604-324-9629

Sources:

City of Vancouver
Vancouver Coastal Health
Ministry of Health Services