

Backgrounder: Count on COPE to Improve Public Health and Community Safety

COPE will put the health and safety of Vancouver's neighbourhoods first through the following commitments to voters:

- COPE will work to strengthen each of the four pillars including prevention, treatment, enforcement and harm reduction.
- COPE will expand upon the successful work of Insite, Vancouver's Supervised Injection Facility and support similar services that prevent drug overdose deaths, limit the spread of disease, help people access addiction treatment, and reduce public disorder, while saving health dollars by delivering primary care at the community level. COPE will stand with the community and fight Stephen Harper as he challenges programs like Insite that keep our neighbourhoods safe.
- COPE will call on all levels of government to work together in coordinating health care services including primary health care, mental health outreach, disease prevention, detox and addiction treatment, supportive housing and harm reduction.
- COPE will make sure harm reduction programs are culturally appropriate for Vancouver's aboriginal residents by working with First-Nations groups.
- COPE will work to direct police resources where it counts focusing on stopping violence and exploitation across the city. Too often police are misused dealing with failings of mental health and addiction services.
- COPE School Board Trustees will work with early learning and childcare service providers on a dedicated early childhood intervention and prevention program backed by sound scientific evidence focused at diverting children and youth away from drugs and gangs.
- COPE will support a 'grown-up' discussion about drug policies and launch a public conversation on how to better coordinate city, park and school boards with the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health as well as Ministries of the Federal and Provincial governments.
- COPE will work on Park Board to support and expand community centre programming that provides children and youth activities other than gangs and drugs.
- COPE is committed to clean, safe parks and community centres and will work with park board and city staff, as well and community non-profits to install more secure needle drop boxes and ensure regular needle sweeps of all public areas.

For more information on how voters can count on COPE to build a Vancouver