

# Public health, equity, justice and pragmatic perspectives on drugs

8.1 Overdose Crisis – Safe Supply Pilot Program (S. McKeen)  
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# Public Health Emergency

- An occurrence or imminent threat of human health impacts from epidemic, pandemic or disaster
  - (epidemic – i.e., in excess of normal expectancy)
  - overwhelms ordinary capacity, resources and measures to protect people from the impacts
  - requires extraordinary capacity, resources and measures

# Pharmaceutical Alternatives

"I used some heroin."

Test	Result	Ref. Range (Units)	Abnormality
<b>Amphetamine</b>	Detected		
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	Detected		
<b>Etizolam</b>	Detected		
<b>Alphahydroxyetizolam</b>	Detected		
<b>Fentanyl</b>	Detected		
<b>Norfentanyl</b>	Detected		
<b>Norcarfentanil</b>	Detected		
	Norcarfentanil is a metabolite of both carfentanil and remifentanil.		
<b>Buprenorphine</b>	Detected		
<b>Norbuprenorphine</b>	Detected		
<b>Creatinine Toxicology Urine</b>	21.240	(mmol/L)	

# Criminalization

- Outcomes of current drug policies
  - Escalating societal cost
  - Thriving, creative illegal drug market
  - Adverse health and social outcomes
  - Systemic discrimination
- Goals of drug policy
  - ~~Limit drug use~~
  - Enhance individual and community quality of life

# Bill C-22

- What it does:
  - Repeals mandatory minimums for drug offences
  - Increases availability of conditional sentences
  - Provides alternatives to criminal charges for simple possession
- What it fails to do:
  - Repeal criminal prohibition on personal drug possession

# The case for full decriminalization

- Consistency and transparency
- Progress towards anti-racism and anti-classism
- Reducing encounters with police
- Reducing *the fear of* encounters with police
- Meaningful resource redeployment

# Recommendation

- The City of Edmonton should seek from the federal Minister of Health a section 56(1) exemption from section 4(1) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act that prohibits the possession of scheduled drugs
- “The Minister may, on any terms and conditions that the Minister considers necessary, exempt from the application of all or any of the provisions of this Act or the regulations any person or class of persons or any controlled substance or precursor or any class of either of them if, in the opinion of the Minister, the exemption is necessary for a medical or scientific purpose or is otherwise in the public interest.”