

Where supervising injections is part of nursing practice

Vancouver Sun

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Re: Two more intervenors join injection site appeal, Nov. 7

In this article, reporter Neal Hall wrote that the Dr. Peter Centre "has been providing, since 2006, a supervised injection site for some of its 300 clients, some of whom are homeless or HIV-positive."

The centre has in fact been providing this service since 2002 and all of its clients are HIV-positive.

The article didn't quite capture the Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation's rationale for providing supervised injection service without an exemption from Health Canada.

It does so not because it "takes the view that it is not necessary because it is not part of the kind of scientific study that Insite is involved in." Rather, the foundation believes the activities of its registered nurses, in directly observing clients who inject themselves, are lawful even without an exemption from Health Canada.

Just as important, this practice is ethical and consistent with practice standards set by B.C.'s College of Registered Nurses.

In the foundation's view, supervising injections is an essential part of registered nursing practice in providing comprehensive primary health care to its HIV-positive clients who use intravenous drugs.

I appreciate The Sun's attention to this important public health matter.

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Executive director

Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation

Vancouver

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