

Petition to implement bylaw that bans the sale or consumption of drugs in public bus shelters, parks and playgrounds.

Our community is under threat. Every day, students, citizens, and seniors in Cobourg, ON are exposed to the dangers of illegal drugs. They risk inhaling smoke from these substances and encountering drug paraphernalia such as used syringes, tinfoil, and empty Narcan packages left carelessly in bus shelters, public parks, and playgrounds. Sometimes even illicit drugs are left lying around for anyone to pick up.

Hundreds of students use King St., East to walk to high school every single day. Their route should be safe; they should not have to navigate through an environment littered with remnants of drug use or be exposed to potential harm.

This issue goes beyond individual safety; it's about the health and well-being of our entire community. According to Statistics Canada, substance abuse contributes significantly towards crime rates across Canadian cities - a reality we must strive against.

We need your support now more than ever! We urge our local government officials in Cobourg, ON to implement a bylaw that bans the sale or consumption of drugs in public spaces like bus shelters, parks and playgrounds - places meant for recreation and relaxation for all ages.

Let's protect our children from exposure to harmful substances on their way school. Let's safeguard our seniors who deserve peaceful enjoyment of public spaces without fear or discomfort. Let's ensure that every citizen can enjoy their city safely without worrying about stumbling upon dangerous drug paraphernalia.

This petition has garnered over 500 signatures. So far. This is very important to the Town Of Cobourg.

I am urging the council of Coburg to implement this by law & amend the current bylaw practises to be more proactive, when dealing with these issues rather than an on-call basis.

Primarily would need to be actively monitored during the morning around 8 AM and in the evenings after dark especially Friday nights in Victoria Park in the north east corner where TweakEasy is still operating, setting up their illegal safe consumption site.

I believe this is a more proactive, cost efficient, dignified and humane way of

dealing with the problem, fairly amongst all residents and visitors of Coburg, because we all deserve to feel safe, and we all deserve to have our human rights respected.

The police do have the authority to deal with this themselves, but they are held to a very high standard in order to deal with these issues.

Criminal code states:

5.13 Prosecution of Possession of Controlled Substances Contrary to s. 4(1) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Applicable Principles

PPSC prosecutors will be guided by the following principles:

Resort to a criminal prosecution of the possession of a controlled substance contrary to s. 4(1) CDSA should generally be reserved for the most serious manifestations of the offence (described in paragraph 3 below).

3. The following areas of concern will generally be considered to be the most serious manifestations of the harms justifying a criminal prosecution response:

A. Conduct that poses a risk to the safety or well-being of children or young persons, including simple possession:

committed in the vicinity of places frequented by children or young persons;
committed by a person who is in a position of trust or statutory authority in respect

of children or young persons;

B. Conduct that puts at risk the health or safety of others, including simple possession associated with impairment from substance use while preparing to drive, being responsible for supervision of a person driving, or driving a motor vehicle, operating machinery, possession of a weapon, or performing an activity posing a risk to public health or safety;

<https://www.ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/.../fps-sfp/tpd/p5/ch13.html>