



REQUIEM FOR A DRUG POLICY



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Harper's archaic drug policy will do more harm than good



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“While the plan did outline money for prevention, Harper’s continued ignorance of harm reduction policy shows that he’s out of touch with what actually works. The increase in the focus on enforcement is the equivalent of passing the Dutchie on the right-hand side: it’s headed in the wrong direction.”

After Prime Minister Stephen Harper unveiled his new drug policy this month, I was appalled at the narrow-mindedness and naiveté that our dear leader displayed.

I’ve always been skeptical of Harper’s political agenda, but when I find out that his son is learning the majority of his drug references from Beatles albums, it’s time for somebody to intervene.

I mean, Jesus, this boy is eleven. He should be educated about drugs the proper way for elementary students: with his parents sitting him down, telling him that they just want to talk, then making him listen to the Velvet Underground’s *Heroin*.

The other thing that bothered me was the negatively biased coverage the media gave Harper’s inept plan. Sure, in this case, it’s easy to sound witty by asking what Harper’s been smoking or wondering if Steve was stoned, but no viable discourse can be generated on this “marijuanagate” through the use of repetitive drug slang. When resting on their laurels like that, few journalists posit more pertinent queries, such as questioning the potency of said drugs that our government officials are currently toking on.

What I’m saying is that our elected representatives just aren’t blazed enough to come up with sound policy anymore. And who can blame them? It’s getting tougher every day to find primo shit in Ottawa so that

they can get through those mundane parliamentary sessions.

This is partially due to our own political correctness. Just look at how far we’ve fallen: Johnny A was hammered out of his mind while founding the Dominion—usually with a rapidly growing brown area on the front of his trousers—and he’s considered a hero.

Today, if our elected representatives decided to discuss a sustainable environmental ethics platform for the Arctic Circle while engaged in a meth-fueled, no-holds-barred orgy, everyone would flip out like they’d discovered that they were sold oregano. Politicians need some excitement like that in their lives; otherwise, the job would be a total downer.

But it’s also due to our nation’s drug policies, flawed as they may be, which were moving towards rehabilitation and harm-reduction programs such as safe injection sites that have so far shown to be effective (if controversial). This method struck a vein in helping the numbers of MPs and backbenchers that are addicted to Georgia Home Boy or Special K get clean, preventing them from actually getting any work done.

Harper’s ham-handed new platform will brilliantly counteract this by adding Nixon’s time-tested mandatory minimum plan that has failed so spectacularly in the US. There’s no actual evidence of this policy ever relieving the drug problem, but it

will help waste tax dollars by filling our prisons with what are, in effect, just minor offenders—as we’ve seen south of the border—while ensuring that plenty of coke is left on the streets so MPs can do rails off of pages’ stomachs to get some inspiration come budget season.

While the plan did outline money for prevention, Harper’s continued ignorance of harm-reduction policy shows that he’s out of touch with what actually works. The increase in the focus on enforcement is the equivalent of passing the Dutchie on the right-hand side: it’s headed in the wrong direction. But for ministers who may need a little bit of California Snow to excel at the workplace, the scheme is narrow and restrictive in all the right ways, like a rubber tube strapped tightly around one’s upper arm.

These governments, all they do is start wars, man. Like this new war on drugs. They lock people up, and for what? Regressive thinking when it comes to policy making? They try to solve problems with bullets when they can’t even feed the people. It’s total bullshit, man.

But I digress. Harper’s really scraping the bong resin with this one. He needs to get hooked up with some quality BC hydro so he can come up with a plan to benefit regular Canadians who want the complex problem of drug abuse dealt with effectively. Luckily for him, I might just know the number of a guy.

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