



Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Association canadienne des chefs de police

Caring • Courage • Equity • Integrity • Openness • Respect • Transparency • Trustworthiness
Compassion • Courage • Équité • Intégrité • Ouverture • Respect • Transparence • Fiabilité

Presentation to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs

Bill C-37 An Act to amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and to make related amendments to other Acts

Remarks By: Directeur Mario Harel (President - CACP) and Supt.
Paul Johnston (Co-Chair CACP Drug Advisory Committee)

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

April 6, 2017

300 Terry Fox Drive, Suite 100/ 300, promenade Terry Fox, suite 100, Kanata, Ontario K2K
0E3

Tel: (613) 595-1101 • Fax/Télécopieur: (613) 383-0372 • E-mail/Courriel: cacp@cacp.ca

David H. Hill, C.M./Q.C., Lynda A. Bordeleau General Counsel/Conseillers juridiques
Perley-Robertson, Hill and McDougall LLP Barristers & Solicitors/Avocats et Procureurs



- Distinguished members of this Committee, as President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, I am pleased to be given the opportunity to meet with each of you today. This is my first time, as President, appearing before this Committee and I am privileged to see so many familiar faces.
- I would like to introduce Supt Paul Johnston who is co-Chair of the CACP Drug Advisory Committee and a member of the Ottawa Police Service. He is my technical advisor as we hope to answer all your questions.
- Briefly, the mandate of the CACP is “safety & security for all Canadians through innovative police leadership”. This mandate is accomplished through the activities and special projects of some 20 CACP committees and through active liaison with various levels of government and departmental ministries having legislative and executive responsibility in law and policing.
- I will not repeat the obvious except to say that we have a crisis, an opioid crisis, one that has led to greater than 900 drug overdose deaths in B.C. in 2016 alone. One that is rapidly moving eastward wreaking havoc on the most innocent of victims. This often consumes the daily lives of our officers. The death rate, addictive qualities, potential for profit far exceed anything we have ever before seen
- The CACP has been pushing hard for a number of elements reflected in this bill and are very supportive that it be passed. We have done so in the context of reducing supply – a focus on those who manufacture

and traffic opioids and other drugs, carrying Naloxone and treating overdoses on our streets, in addition to ensuring the safety of our officers through education in handling of these toxic substances.

- This must be combined with a focus on demand – the public health side. Users are not criminals, they are the unfortunate reality of addiction, marginalization, mental health, etc. Here a focus on prevention, education, intervention/treatment is necessary. From this point-of-view, we see it as a public health crisis.
- We need the government to take action. Action that goes beyond party lines such as the fentanyl precursors legislation that was introduced by Senator White and quickly adopted by Health Canada.
- Attitudes towards drugs are changing throughout our communities, for example, with regards to supervised consumption sites. From a CACP perspective, our position is that these are community decisions. These sites are not for every community and there must be a demonstrated need. In our view, they MUST be coupled with clear avenues to addiction, social programs – wrap-around services.
- In an effort to help reduce the supply of illicit opioids and other drugs there are several key requests by the CACP that are included in this bill and will help better equip policing:
 - Specifically, it prohibits the unregistered import of pill presses, encapsulators and other designated devices used in the production of these

substances and designated under a new schedule in the CDSA. This is a good start but could be strengthened through greater vetting and monitoring. For example, background checks on applicants or business and controls on re-sales.

- It removes the exception currently placed on border officers to only open mail weighing more than 30 grams, so that officers could open international mail of any weight, should they have reasonable grounds to suspect the item may contain prohibited, controlled or regulated goods.
- Temporary accelerated scheduling enables the rapid control of dangerous new substances through temporary scheduling
- The CACP also recognizes measures within this bill to assist in the reducing the risk of diversion of controlled substances.
- In 2015, the CACP passed a resolution highlighting the important need for law enforcement and Canada Post to work together to stop the transmission of contraband through the postal system. Despite any reliable intelligence and information that points to illicit substances being moved through the mail system, it may not be acted upon by police until it is successfully delivered. The CACP will continue to advocate for the modernization of the Canada Post Corporation Act to correct this.
- The CACP's long-held position is that we believe in a balanced approach to the issue of substance use and

abuse in Canada, consisting of prevention, education, enforcement, counseling, treatment, rehabilitation, and where appropriate, alternative measures and diversion of offenders in order to counter Canada's drug problems.

- Again, users are not criminals, they are the unfortunate reality of addiction, marginalization, mental health, etc.
- We appreciate the approach and measures included in this bill. We are committed to work with you, with all levels of government, within our communities and alongside the many stakeholders who all share in the same goal of eradicating this crisis.
- Thank you and I look forward to answering any questions you have.