



Edmonton Chapter of the Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy

City-wide Decriminalization: I would support submitting a request to Health Canada to grant an exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to remove the criminal penalties associated with the personal possession of currently illegal drugs within Edmonton

- **Agree**
- Disagree
- Don't know/ no opinion
- Prefer not to answer

National Decriminalization: I would support calling on the Government of Canada to remove criminal penalties associated with the personal possession of currently illegal drugs

- **Agree**
- Disagree
- Don't know/ no opinion
- Prefer not to answer

Safer supply: I would support initiatives in Edmonton to provide safer pharmaceutical alternatives to the toxic drug supply.

- **Agree**
- Disagree
- Don't know / no opinion
- Prefer not to answer

Supervised Consumption Services: I would support expanding Supervised Consumption Services in Edmonton.

- **Agree**
- Disagree
- Don't know / no opinion
- Prefer not to answer

Option to provide a further statement on how you would plan to address the overdose crisis within Edmonton

The current situation with the overdose crisis in Edmonton is unacceptable and highlights the gaps in our policies. I also recognize that at the municipal level drug policies can often be difficult as there are a lot of challenging nuances and differences between jurisdictions. Through my work with the City of Edmonton on the urban wellness initiative, I have seen the impact of addiction, intertwined with mental health and houselessness, not just on the people who are affected but on the community itself. Therefore I strongly believe that any solutions require us to adopt a people-centred design approach where we centre programs and policies on the lived experiences of individuals and the communities impacted. It will be important to take a learning approach similar to the urban wellness initiative I was a part of at the City (<https://www.urbanwellnessedmonton.com/>), where we can try innovative approaches on a smaller scale, see the impacts and outcomes, and work to scale if successful.

As someone with a public health background, I am also fully supportive of taking a harm reduction approach in communities which should not only include access to supervised consumption sites (SCS) in response to our current crisis but also implementing upstream policies. In working directly with those struggling with complex histories of mental health, addiction, unemployment, and homelessness, I know all too well the importance and impact of welcoming spaces for people to feel like they belong. When elected, I have a strong vision of adapting existing infrastructure into community hubs that are welcoming to people struggling with complex issues and can also provide preventative and health promotion opportunities.