

RESOLUTIONS

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION (No. E1)

BLOCK: General & Remaining

CUPE BC WILL:

Call on the BC government to:

- take the action necessary to establish a more balanced approach to public consumption, as is being done for public consumption of alcohol;
- make additional investments in fighting the organized crime targeting unhoused and underhoused populations, the source of the criminal activity that makes our communities less safe for everyone; and
- accelerate investments in housing options to provide sustainable and safe options for underhoused and unhoused citizens.

BECAUSE:

- In March, a BC court rejected the BC government's attempt to appeal a December 2023 court injunction preventing the implementation of the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*;
- The act in question would ban consumption of in particular public places for the duration of the pilot project that decriminalizes the possession of illicit drugs;
- On April 26, in response to the court's decision, the BC government expanded on its original proposal in the suspended legislation, introducing a wide-spread ban on public consumption;
- Banning public consumption increases the risk of harm and death from the poisoned drug supply, increasing lone consumption and forcing underhoused and unhoused people into unsafe spaces;
- At the same time, a balance is needed to ensure that the 3-year decriminalization pilot program in British Columbia is a success, while at the same time, growing public support for safe supply and a permanent decriminalization that is safe for everyone;
- The updated banning of public consumption re-introduces increased policing of those with substance use issues, those struggling with mental health issues, and those trying to survive the poisoned drug crisis, and takes police resources away from fighting the organized crime that terrorizes unhoused and underhoused populations, and is the main factor making our communities less safe; and
- The increasing incidence of public consumption is driven by the housing crisis – the lack of affordable and accessible housing options for those struggling with mental health and additions – more than it is by the decriminalization pilot project.

CUPE BC Executive Board

Convention: Carried _____

Defeated _____