

Lowertown Community Association
L'Association communautaire de la Basse-Ville

MEETING NOTES / NOTES DE RÉUNION – 21 OCTOBER 2013 / 21 OCTOBRE 2013
ROUTHIER COMMUNITY CENTRE @ 7-9 PM / CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE ROUTHIER à 19-21h

- **Board members present:** Marc Aubin (President), Leah Fleetwood (Vice President), Liz Bernstein (Vice President), Sarah Bonesteel (Secretary), Michelle Ramsay Borg (Director, Communications), Steve Monuk (Director, Business Liaison), Liz Mackenzie (Co-Chair, Heritage Committee)
 - **Total community members present:** 80
1. **Welcome Remarks / Mots de bienvenue (Marc Aubin)**
 - Welcome, introduction of board members present, and invitation to attend Annual General Meeting in November and stand for position on board.
 2. **Approval of Agenda and notes from last meeting / Approbation de l'Ordre du jour et notes de la dernière réunion (Marc Aubin)**
 - September meeting notes and October meeting agenda approved.
 3. **Councillor's Update / Mise à jour du conseiller**
 - Present from the Councillor's Office: Councillor Mathieu Fleury, Councillor's Assistants: Alanna Dale-Hill and Matt Genest
 - **Sussex:** construction is underway, renewing pipes that date to 1877. Bruyere is closed at Sussex until November 4. Bruyere Street will be repaired later in November. Construction will end and all four lanes of Sussex will be reopened once it snows but construction will resume next summer. The project will be completed in 2015. Contact Alanna or the LCA, or take a look at the Sussex Renewal website if you have questions.
 - **Transportation Master Plan:** The plan was tabled and is going to Committee in early November. The summary and report are on the City of Ottawa website. The plan sets transportation priorities for the City for the next four years.
 - **Rideau Street:** construction is going well. The traffic flip will happen at the end of October when work will begin on the south side of the street. Charlotte Street at Rideau will be closed until the end of November.
 - **Public consultation on King Edward Avenue Zoning Review:** The Official Plan designates King Edward as a traditional main street but the zoning for individual lots is not aligned with this. The City wants to unify the zoning so will encourage the construction of buildings with commercial on the ground floor and commercial or residential on upper floors. Building heights could be three to six storeys. Existing residential use will be allowed to continue. Contact Matt to see maps.
 - **Pilons on King Edward Avenue:** (question from resident, response from Nathan Davis, Co-Chair, King Edward Avenue Task Force): The pilons on the northbound side of the street are a traffic calming pilot project. City staff are reviewing how the pilons affect traffic to see if the extra lane blocked by the pilons could be used for traffic turning on/off residential streets. The pilot project could also be moved south and tried on additional blocks.

- **King Edward Avenue Task Force:** asked City of Ottawa for five things: ball about, 50m of bus lane removed on west side (by Nile Grocer), segregated bike lanes on east and west sides, speed limit signs moved to centre median, and re-time crosswalks at St. Andrew to prioritize cyclists and pedestrians. City staff seem reluctant to impose slower speeds, as directed by council. Madeleine Meilleur cancelled the plan for a new east-end bridge and essentially refuses to make contact.

- 4. **Areas of Interest – Updates / Champs d'intérêt – Mise à jour:**
- **Echo Committee Update / Mise à jour du Echo (Nic Moyer)**
 - Congratulations to all who volunteered on creating and delivering the latest edition of the Echo.
 - The Committee is trying to put out four editions per year. They are looking for a Distribution Coordinator (to manage/coordinate the process), an Advertising/Sales Coordinator (to liaise with businesses), writers and story ideas, and more people to assist with deliveries.
 - The Echo could be bigger and produced more often but need engagement with community.
 - To volunteer, contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

- **Environnement Update / Mise à jour environnementale (Liz Bernstein)**
 - **Active Transportation Audit:** in June, looked at impediments to safe walking and biking in the community, and how to make it safer. The project included Walk Ottawa, Councillor Fleury's Office, King Edward Avenue Task Force and others. A report was produced. Let Liz know if you would like a copy (info@lowertown-basseville.ca). Launch of the report was held on September 19 at City Hall. The LCA has used the report to promote inclusion of the Complete Streets Policy in the Transportation Master Plan and to have an op-ed piece in the Ottawa Citizen. As follow up, more volunteers are needed for additional walking audits, including one in the winter (February/March) and one for seniors (next spring). The LCA has applied to the City for grant to help with the cost of the audits and to implement changes. Requested changes include fixing cracks in street, removing sandwich boards, and increasing the length of cross walk lights.
 - **Launch of Tree Ottawa:** Goal is to plant one million trees in Ottawa before the City's anniversary in 2017. We are losing many trees through Emerald Ash Borer infections. A tree has been planted in Bingham Park as a launch, which resulted in an article in the Ottawa Citizen. Get involved next spring and fall with planting.
 - **Tree Nut Walk:** hosted by the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, was successful.
 - **Transportation Master Plan:** LCA will be reviewing and providing input. We are also looking for comments from residents (send them to: info@lowertown-basseville.ca). The Plan also includes major transit plans for post-2018. Consultation for downtown was last week. November 15 is Transit Committee Meeting, 9:30am. Residents can attend and speak. The meeting will be at City Hall.

- **Heritage Update / Mise à jour héritage (Liz MacKenzie and Nancy Miller-Chenier)**
 - **Demolition by Neglect:** The community is cheered that the City Council recently passed the *Property Standards for Heritage Properties* by-law. Under this by-law, buildings must be kept to municipal standards. Prior to demolition, all building design details and materials must be documented so that the heritage attributes can be replaced. The Councillor's

Assistant confirmed that a By-Law Officer, Derek Petch, is working proactively in Lowertown on this issue. Abandoned and neglected buildings should be reported by calling 311.

- **Heritage Ottawa Forum:** Nancy Miller-Chenier and Shannon Ricketts attended this event, an information-sharing and networking event for Heritage Committees across the City.
- **90 Bolton Street:** This residence has been sold and at the insistence of the LCA Planning Committee, will be developed respecting the Heritage Conservation Development (HCD) Guidelines.
- **153 Guigues Street:** A developer has put forward a proposal to construct ten units in the backyard of this residence. This is a massive overdevelopment (120% addition, where the HCD Guidelines limit additions to 25%). Discussions with the developer are ongoing.
- **York Street School:** Shannon Ricketts completed her research and has applied for an individual designation. She also prepared a request for Ste. Anne Rectory (17 Myrand Street).
- **Our Lady School:** The Cumberland and Murray walls will be reinforced with a steel frame and preserved. The rest will be demolished. Work will begin in the spring.
- **207-209 Murray:** The unique 1866 double residence adjacent to the school has been so badly neglected that it will be completely demolished.
- **23 1/2 St Andrew Street:** Despite interventions at City Committees by Shannon Ricketts, the building will be demolished.
- **The Sussex Houses:** The houses will be moved back at great cost. The curve on Sussex (a traffic calming measure) will be straightened. Engineers win again. Work is ongoing.
- **Union du Canada:** Numerous community members and watchdogs followed every step of the process: meeting with the developer (Claridge), City staff, the Built Heritage Subcommittee, Planning Committee and City Council. At every stage, elected officials ignored community concerns. Councillors approved the project without comment. Marc Aubin and a team of angry dissenters challenged the City's decision at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). It was a grueling week in September – preparing the briefs and attending the meetings. We have not yet had a decision. Demolition permits are expected to be issued within a week. Last week, the Urban Design Review Panel, an advisory panel to the City, reviewed the designs. The Panel's report states that the proposal is a major overdevelopment of the site and does not make enough effort to fit into the context of the Byward Market. The report further stated that a better balance needs to be achieved, that it should exhibit greater sensitivity to the existing context, that it is unsatisfactory in its current form and that they want changes to the plan and another review. In particular, the report noted that the facades are inappropriately strong and over-assertive, and should be designed as more neutral, beautiful back-drop buildings to the rest of the Byward Market district. All of these comments echo what the community has been saying since January. The LCA has met with Councillor Harder (assigned to support Lowertown on this issue as our Councillor has a conflict of interest with Claridge) to request that she press the City to act on the Panel's recommendations.
- **100th Anniversary of Macdonald Gardens:** research is continuing to assist with the resident's planned celebrations. Macdonald Gardens is being studied as a potential Heritage Conservation District.
- **Rideau Street Revitalization District:** Marc has taken the lead in researching Rideau Street businesses as background to having commemorative bricks placed in the new

sidewalk. If you are aware of former Rideau Street businesses, please contact Marc at info@lowertown-basseville.ca.

- **Summer Students:** The LCA hired two summer students with a federal Canada Summer Jobs Grant. The Heritage Committee is reviewing its capability to hire and supervise students for the coming year.
 - Marc noted that he stepped away from the President role to lead the OMB appeal related to the Claridge development. Marc thanked the Vice Presidents, Leah and Liz, for covering in his absence during the past two months. Marc also noted the impressive amount of work that board members, committee members and other volunteers do regularly and thanked the volunteers who work with and support the board.
- **Communications Update / Mise à jour communications (Michelle Ramsay-Borg)**
 - Everyone is encouraged to “like” the LCA facebook page. Information about events and other items is added daily, including news stories from CBC, Ottawa Citizen, Sun, etc. about Lowertown.
 - **Membership and Volunteer Update / Mise à jour L’adhésion et bénévoles (Vera Etches)**
 - The distribution list now has over 600 members. The monthly e-newsletter update is sent electronically to inform as many people as possible. There is no fee for membership.
 - The LCA is formalizing the volunteer orientation and recognition system. The LCA has lots of volunteers with the Echo, Bingham Park rink, and on committees. If you are interested in volunteering, contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca.
 - The LCA is also looking for “Block Contacts” to get people to take ownership for the block they live on and to act as a liaison with the LCA. Contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca if you are interested in acting as a Block Contact and we will provide resources to support you in your role.
5. **Events – Updates / Événements – Mise à jour: (Marc Aubin)**
 - **Annual General Meeting Planning / Planification de l’Assemblée générale annuelle**
 - The AGM will be held on November 18 at the Routhier Community Centre. The social will begin at 6:30pm, with the business meeting following at 7:00pm.
 - The LCA is looking for new board members. Residents should consider running for a position on the board and encourage their neighbours to join the LCA.
 - **Bingham Park Ice Rink: call for volunteers / Patinoire du parc Bingham : appel aux bénévoles**
 - The rink volunteers are looking for assistance this year. Please contact info@lowertown-basseville.ca if you would like to help maintain the rink.
 6. **Special Feature / Présentation spéciale:**
 - **Supervised Drug Injection Site Information Presentations / Présentation concernant le site d’injection supervisé**
 - Marc Aubin, President: This part of the meeting is intended to be a cordial, information-sharing session. It is not a rally. We organized this session to provide information to residents of Lowertown. We have a volunteer facilitator for this part of the meeting, Carol Sutherland-Brown.

- Carol Sutherland-Brown: is a long time resident of Ottawa and has held various positions of responsibility at Health Canada and other federal departments in both policy and program delivery. She recently retired from the Federal Public Service and is a consultant, specializing in public policy, international relations and facilitation.
- **Carol Sutherland Brown (CSB):** Thank you. Welcome. This is a controversial topic. This is an information meeting and an opportunity for people to ask questions of speakers. The Lowertown Community Association (LCA) attempted to find speakers knowledgeable from a variety of perspectives. The four presenters will be speaking for five minutes each. We ask that people be respectful and listen to the speakers. We want to fit in as many questions as possible so please don't make statements, just get to your questions.

Carol presented the first speaker:

Chris Grinham, Safer Ottawa: Chris and Lisa Grinham began Safer Ottawa in 2006 to deal with the dangerous issue of discarded needles. Over the course of the next two years they picked up over 6,000 needles and over 27 gallons of discarded equipment. They formed partnerships with the City of Ottawa, shelters and various agencies to put services in place to deal with this issue and change how equipment was dispensed to ensure community safety while not limiting access to safe equipment. With that issue dealt with, they now have changed their focus to advocate for treatment and addiction services to help those living with the nightmare of addiction, as well as working on the serious issue of homelessness in Ottawa. They have helped with the opening of one treatment center and continue to work with partners to help the most vulnerable in our city.

Presentation by Chris Grinham:

- Chris Grinham (CG) stated that he has worked on community issues, including harm reduction for seven years. There have been many issues in the neighbourhood but also many improvements. This is not the first time the supervised injection site (SIS) issue has come up. It is the second time in recent years that one has been proposed but the first time we are aware of an actual proposal in development.
- CG noted the four issues SIS are meant to deal with:
 - Discarded needles and drug equipment: CG stated that he has picked up many discarded needles and drug equipment and knows that the only way to tackle this issue is at its source. He has formed partnerships with Ottawa Public Health and others that led to creation of the Rapid Needle Response Team, the Needle Hunter Program and wider availability of safe disposal for needles. Also, the Shepherds of Good Hope have adopted a more exchange-focused needle program. This has all lead to a drastic decrease in the number of discarded needles in Lowertown and the pick-up rate is much quicker. As there are now so few discarded needles and programs are in place to effectively deal with those that are discarded, an SIS is not needed to deal with discarded needles or drug equipment.
 - Drug injections in public: Vancouver's Downtown Eastside has had Insite for over ten years and public drug injections continue. See: Steve Addison's blog, Diary of a Vancouver Beat Cop (<http://www.beatcopdiary.vpd.ca/about/>), The Beat (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eLalKDOFLY>), and Streets of Plenty (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6-1oo-b3Ds>) to understand more about this.

- Disease prevention: Reports from Ottawa Public Health and the Ottawa Office of the Medical Officer of Health (<http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/obh/2013/03-18/report%20c.pdf>) on infectious disease in the City and their causes indicate that HIV rates have been decreasing over the past five or six years. Of the 70 total infections in 2010, four were attributed to injection drug use. Most are attributed to unsafe sex. In 2012, the HIV infection rate was down to 54. Infection rates of acute Hepatitis B are all but non-existent and rates have been dropped by 80% since 2005. There were two Hepatitis B cases reported in 2012 one this year. Hepatitis C cases have been reduced by 21% since 2009.
- Providing outreach to help drug users access services: The argument is that SIS provide outreach and a referral opportunity to other services. These connections are important but are also available through other groups, such as shelters, social services, clinics, religious groups, and Ottawa Police Services. An SIS would not provide referral services that are not already available to drug users at other services they frequent. The lack of treatment beds is the problem. Even when drug users are referred and want to access treatment, a bed for them is often not available.
- SIS are also often promoted as preventing overdoses and overdose deaths. Insite reports no deaths on its premises. Insite's statistics indicate that the number of overdose incidents on the premises has increased 150% since 2007-2008, while the number of users in the injection room remains relatively stable. Although there have been no deaths, users may experience permanent health problems from overdoses.
- CG questioned Insite on whether offsite deaths (including those enroute to hospital or in hospital) related to overdoses at Insite are tracked and was told these overdose deaths are not tracked as being related to Insite.
- CG stated that Safer Ottawa (<http://www.saferottawa.ca> or <http://www.facebook.com/saferottawa>) is advocating for access to better and more effective treatment options for drug users, such as Harvest House or the San Patriano model in Italy. These organizations/models provide effective drug treatment and other services and supports to addicts, and are an effective means of reducing infectious disease and decreasing crime in areas frequented by drug users and dealers.
- Carol presented the second speaker:
Dr. Mark Tyndall is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Ottawa Hospital. He has conducted numerous community-based research projects, including epidemiologic studies of HIV and Hepatitis C transmission, addiction and HIV treatment access among injection drug users, and was the co-lead investigator for Vancouver's supervised injection site - INSITE. He is actively developing harm reduction strategies and research initiatives in Ottawa including the PROUD cohort study.
- **Presentation by Dr. Mark Tyndall:**
- Mark Tyndall (MT) noted that he lived in Vancouver for 12 years. He had previously done addiction work in Africa but was shocked by the downtown eastside, including the open drug use, HIV rates, 400 overdose deaths per year, and 16,000 drug users. He noted that this was a ghettoized community. Insite is a harm reduction strategy and was created in 2003. His impression is that there are a lot of problems with drug use in Ottawa. Two years ago the

Supreme Court ruled Insite should stay open with a 9-0 decision, and that other sites could open under the right circumstances but no further sites have yet opened.

- Insite has 12,000 users, 40% of which have gone into some kind of treatment. They are accessing primary care, and discarded needles have decreased. HIV and Hepatitis C rates are also decreasing. Vancouver has programs similar to Ottawa but it is also likely that Insite contributed to the decreased rate of disease. In his last year working in Vancouver, it was unusual to see new HIV infections.
- Drug addiction can't be fixed by our court system and drug users need support and preventative services. Just because we label people as doing illegal things, does not mean we should send them to jail.
- MT stated that he wanted to make it crystal clear that he wants treatment for people, but that people should also have clean needles and respect, the same things promoted by Safer Ottawa. He noted it was inconsistent that Safer Ottawa does not support an SIS as it is the most pragmatic way to offer a clean, dry place for drug use.
- There are 40 treatment beds in Ottawa and 5,000 drug users. People using drugs are in crisis and most won't live long enough to get treatment.
- MT stated that he does not believe there will be any negative effects on Lowertown from an SIS as there are 90 SIS around the world and negative effects have not occurred related to others.
- MT believes that through meeting people who are using drugs, the community will agree with the need for an SIS because it will be apparent that people are not able to go directly to treatment. He hopes this is the start of a constructive dialogue. He stated that it is unacceptable to say no to an SIS when there is no alternative.

- Carol presented the third speaker:

Matt Skof, President, Ottawa Police Association: Matt Skof is the President of the Ottawa Police Association and a Sergeant with the Ottawa Police Service who has 17 years of policing experience. Much of his policing career has been in the Byward Market and Vanier areas. He has been involved as the Ottawa Police representative with several different harm reduction programs. Two years ago, just prior to being elected to the Ottawa Police Association, Matt also sat as the Ottawa Police Service representative for the Drug Treatment Court.

Presentation by Matt Skof:

- Matt Skof (MS) thanked the community for providing him with the opportunity to speak. He stated that he speaks for sworn members of the Ottawa Police Service but does not speak for the Service itself.
- MS stated that several months ago, the Canadian Government set down guidelines in regards to needle injection sites, and that prior to being given an exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substance Act, an organization that wishes to operate an injection site must engage several public stakeholders. MS stated that he participated in the press conference that Minister Aglukkaq and Minister Blaney held, outlining the new guidelines.
- MS noted that SIS are often called "safe" injection sites, which is ironic given that "safe" can hardly be described when consuming heroin. He stated that "supervised" is a more appropriate term for an injection site.
- After reviewing the data that was being touted as "proof" by the Insite group, MS stated that he was very much reminded of the reasons that prevent officials from discussing the obvious truth, or even the facts themselves: politics.

- MS stated that thorough public debate on issues of such importance is lost in the rush by interest groups to access limited funding, and that the political process often listens most sympathetically to the interest groups promising great results without adequately scrutinizing their data. MS stated that an issue as significant as allowing an SIS should attract public debate that rises above interest group advocacy. The public requires all of the facts in order to develop a fully informed position on the matter.
- MS stated that at the very core of the discussion considering the concept of an SIS, there is a series of questions to be answered in determining the facts, beginning with where the SIS will be located: what neighbourhood will be sacrificed, given that several square blocks are allocated to transporting illegal products? MS stated that this is a significant issue that police encounter as drug users can claim to inject pretty well any type of drug, which then qualifies them to possess the drugs, and encourages drug dealers/traffickers to sell in the neighbourhood. MS asked, “are people still willing to live in this neighbourhood?” MS stated that if people are willing to live in the neighbourhood, they need to consider that this area will have high rates of anti-social crimes, prostitution and homelessness. They should also prepare for a brisk trade in stolen goods, as the SIS clients need to supply their habits. MS stated that it is abundantly clear that an SIS brings an increase in crime and that these crimes extend well beyond the drugs eventually consumed within the SIS.
- MS stated that it cannot be assumed that drug users will actually go to the SIS, and alleyways, stairwells and parking lots around other SIS are often used for drug injections.
- MS stated that it is important to consider alternative approaches to treating drug addiction but that we must speak honestly to each other, which should begin with our political leaders. For example, the distribution of rubber tips to limit the spread of disease from sharing crack pipes change the taste of the drug being inhaled. Also, the needle exchange programs become needle distribution centers and require volunteer needle-hunters to recover used equipment. Other well intended programs are the methadone clinics and the drug treatment court program.
- MS stated that in Vancouver, an incredible amount of policing resources are deployed to the area lost as a result of the Insight program and the five square blocks allocated to the transportation, trafficking and consumption of drugs. There is a greater demand for social housing and the food lines at the shelters are as long as they have ever been. This all occurs even though there are more social services already allocated to the area.
- MS stated that Ottawa already has many programs trying to address its social problems, and that an SIS will only invite massive loss in property values and the complete cultural loss of a neighbourhood.

- Carol presented the fourth speaker:

Sean LeBlanc, Chairperson, Drug Users Advocacy League: Self described on Twitter as “a beat punk rock gentleman with a penchant for justice, harm reduction and music”. Having survived an opiate addiction, Sean is now the Chairperson of the Drug Users Advocacy League (DUAL), a non-profit corporation that advocates for drug users in Ottawa. Sean has been a driving force in creating a voice for people who use drugs in Ottawa. He is a co-investigator on the PROUD study and works as a consultant for organizations who work with people who use drugs to insure that their programs and services reflect the needs and wishes of those it aims to serve.

Presentation by Sean LeBlanc:

- Sean LeBlanc (SL) thanked people for attending and noted that he hoped it was the first step in a long dialogue. He noted that although it was not a debate, he would like to know the source of evidence for increased crime and decreased property values related to an SIS. SL stated he had full confidence that Ottawa Police Service could police the area.
- SL stated that he lucked out of addiction, because Emergency Medical Services helped him and he woke up in hospital, which was an impetus for him to get help. Some of his friends did not get help. He noted the need to reach out to people where they're at. If people are homeless long-term and need help, something in society is not working. He noted that people need to be alive and healthy to access treatment.
- SL stated that over 40 people in the Ottawa area die from overdoses each year. He further noted that people have guaranteed human rights and that he likes to think Canadians help each other, especially those who are most vulnerable. He does not know why the SIS initiative would be denied.
- SL stated that he has seen people die from overdoses. He asked that people look at the evidence for SIS. He noted that we have been fighting the war for 100 years and nothing has changed so he would like to hear any alternate suggestions to the SIS proposal.

Questions and Responses, moderated by Carol Sutherland-Brown:

- Carol asked that people asking questions state their name, street, and who they'd like to answer their question.
- Question from a community member (Q): Concerned about exclusion zone for those with drugs, want to know more.
 - MS: Dealers sell drugs and people claim to use to be going to Insite to inject drugs but can actually use drugs anywhere within the four-block zone.
 - MT: People get drugs elsewhere and inject at Insite. A "No-go" zone only works in co-operation with police. It is a fabrication.
- Q: We are living in a polarized society and the question is for Mr. Skof: are you willing to sit with Dr. Tyndall and others to have an open, frank discussion and try to find common ground? People discount science and go with their emotions.
 - MS: Stated that he would let Superintendent Ty Cameron answer on behalf of Ottawa Police Services. Superintendent Cameron stated that, there will be an Ottawa-made solution and the Criminal Code will be enforced. If there is an exemption for an SIS, the Ottawa Police Services will deal with it. But they will enforce the Code. We are fighting ghosts at this point. If a proposal for an SIS comes forward, there will need to be meaningful consultation with the community, including the broader health of the community, in addition to addicts. The Ottawa Police Services will work with people once there is clear request for an SIS.
- Q: Believe that all people in Ottawa should be consulted about an SIS. The community member lost a cousin to drugs and saw violence outside of the SIS in Vancouver. The speaker was opposed to an SIS. What is the exclusion zone? It is terrible for Lowertown residents and visitors. What is the buffer zone and why not advocate for more treatment instead of facilitating illegal injections?
 - MT: Stated that he does not understand the buffer zone, and there is no exemption outside of the SIS in Vancouver. It is up to police to enforce laws and this is a troubling myth. He would not want it in his neighbourhood and it will not happen. It is a counterintuitive argument for most people. MT emphasized the difficulty of getting someone into treatment

and stated that success of treatment happens over time and relationships. It is a process and an SIS helps with the first step. It is a pragmatic approach.

- Q: The community member stated they were finding the claims unsubstantiated and troubling, and would like the doctor to explain how SIS have anything to do with human rights.
 - MT: Stated that SIS are the best example of human rights that he knows of. He noted that he knows SIS can help people and a denial of access is equal to a denial of rights. He stated that when someone is doing something that we as a society consider illegal and do not condone, we think that we can just not care about their health and send them to jail but this is an abuse of human rights.
- Q: The community member stated they attended the meeting because someone put out a flyer about a buffer zone. As a former addict who was not trusting of authority, the speaker asked how addicts would be convinced to use the SIS if a police officer was sitting 30 feet away and could pick them up? Isn't a buffer zone needed to make users come to the SIS?
 - MT: Stated that for studies, they had to collect data about users of Insite and had to do it creatively because of concerns for individuals' privacy. He noted that they had to have communication with police and that police are looking for dealing and not frisking everyone.
 - Superintendent Cameron stated that based on the experience with Insite in Vancouver, police did not grab anyone approaching Insite and the same thing would happen with an SIS in Ottawa. He noted that the rate of theft from vehicles is highest in Lowertown (within Ottawa) and noted that addicts often obtain drugs by getting money through petty crime.
 - MS: Stated that he talked to the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) about their no-go zone. He noted that their community is lost and that we should not be fooled. If an SIS is opened in Lowertown, there will have to be an area where police restrict their activities. Vancouver has 60 officers dedicated to the neighbourhood around Insite. In Ottawa, this would mean dedicating almost all Ottawa Police Services officers to Lowertown to obtain the same level of policing as around Insite in Vancouver.
 - CG: Provided a quote from the SIS toolkit, which noted that while VPD officers have discretion with respect to drug use and drug possession, including seizure of drugs, and arresting and charging individuals. Their procedure in dealing with someone who is injecting drugs within a four-block radius of the SIS is to "direct the drug user to attend the SIS to avoid a future contact with police." It is anticipated that similar protocols may be used by other police forces. Ottawa Police Services officers were trying to arrest drug dealers following the drug vans in Ottawa but were prevented by Ottawa Public Health who deemed they were interfering with a health initiative and had to back off.
 - Q: What is the PROUD study?
 - SL: Stated that as part of this study, over 700 drug users in the area have been interviewed to find out how to improve services for them. He interviewed three people today who were HIV positive and got it from dirty needles. He stated that HIV and Hepatitis C rates were higher here than elsewhere.
 - Q: As Dr. Tyndall questioned the accuracy of CG's statistics, would CG please explain the source of his information?
 - CG: Stated that his statistics on disease rates in Ottawa were from Ottawa Public Health, and his statistics on overdoses and Insite were from Vancouver Coastal Health. He noted that he could back up all of his statistics and that further information is available on the Safer Ottawa website.

- Q: On HIV statistics, part of reduction is due to innovative harm reduction practices put in place by the community. One infection is too many because of the cost of treatment. Have you spoken to VPD colleagues about their support? Why does VPD support an SIS and Ottawa Police Services does not?
 - MS: Stated that he wanted to be clear that he would sit down with anyone to discuss SIS. He further stated that the VPD may support Insite but not the membership because the support is political. VPD may provide tours, etc. but that is part of the political support. politics.
- Q: Will an SIS cause increased crime? The community member noted that they currently see people who are high and smoking up now, and don't see how that would increase with an SIS.
 - SL: Stated that most drugs are from doctor's offices.
 - MS: Stated that if police are unable to conduct enforcement because of a no-go zone, there will be more drug trafficking.
 - MT: Stated that the VPD push people to Insite, which is better than taking people to jail. He stated that the activity in the area around Insite is very street-based dealing and the people are marginalized. We need to reach out and do something more productive. The War on Drugs has failed because jails are full of people who have committed non-violent crimes.
- Q: A community member expressed concern about police enforcement for drug use and selling around an SIS. Is it true that police would not forbid people selling drugs? Miscommunication?
 - MS: Stated that enforcement of law regarding drug trafficking is not happening around Insite.
 - MT: Noted that the police "jack up" addicts on the street.
 - MS: Stated that the police do not "jack up" street level addicts. They enforce the Criminal Code as required by their mandate. Suggesting that Ottawa Police are "jacking up" addicts is suggesting that they are committing a criminal act.
 - MT: Noted that he did not mean to suggest that Ottawa Police were breaking the law.
- Q: The community member stated they had lived on King Edward Avenue for 28 years and was curious because they had seen a transfer of social services to Lowertown over the past 15 years and questioned whether there had been any research on the level of migration by addicts to an area with an SIS?
 - MS: According to VPD, social service needs increased with the creation of the SIS and the need for them continues to grow.
- Q: A community member asked about the other 90 SIS across the world and whether there is research available on them?
 - MT: Stated that information is available about the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injection Centre (MSIC), that the area around it is now quite gentrified. He stated that there is essentially no HIV infection in the area and that the Australia Government is thinking of closing the site because it is not well used. There are three or four SIS in Germany. Many people used to deal and sleep in a park near the SIS but with the co-operation of police and others, it is now a nice park for people to use. He stated that there is not a static epidemic and that most users are in their 40s and 50s, with few young users. Hard core injection drug use is on the decrease. He is troubled that we are losing people that we could save.
- Q: A community member stated that if they thought that when the police stopped drug addicts they had something useful to say like, go to the SIS, that would be helpful but wanted to know

why there is such a barrier to providing treatment? We seem to be able to do everything else in this country except help the homeless and addicts.

- CG: Stated that we have too few treatment beds, and that time and resources would be better served by opening more and longer-term treatment facilities. He further stated that he would like to see Italian-style services offered here, as they are effective and humane at helping people to get off drugs and stay clean rather than injecting drugs that kill them. There is a serious lack of access to treatment and he would like to see OPS be able to direct people to treatment rather than to tell them where they can inject themselves with drugs.
- Carol thanked all speakers and the audience for their passion and interest in the topic, and for the respect they'd shown.
- Marc thanked Carol for her work as facilitator.

Next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, 18 November 2013 / La prochaine réunion sera l'Assemblée Générale Annuelle le 18 novembre 2013