

Jurisdictions and organizations that have expressed support for alternative approaches to criminalization

Federally, the current government has introduced Bill C-5 which proposes amendments to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* that would repeal all mandatory minimum penalties and require police and prosecutors to consider diverting people to treatment programs or other supportive services, rather than charging and prosecuting simple drug possession offences. The Bill has completed its first and second readings in the House of Commons and is currently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. Additionally, the federal NDP introduced Bill C-216, a private members bill that proposes to remove the provision in the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* that makes the possession of certain substances illegal, expunge certain drug-related convictions, and enact the National Strategy on Substance Use Act. Bill C-216 has completed its first reading and is undergoing its second reading in the House of Commons.

Many Canadian health and justice organizations are advocating for an end to criminal penalties for possessing illicit substances for personal use.

Applied for exemption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Columbia • City of Vancouver • City of Toronto
Advocated to federal government (e.g., to decriminalize, to examine drug policies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Toronto • City of Montreal • Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Big City Mayors' Caucus • HIV Legal Network, Pivot Legal Society, and Canadian Drug Policy Coalition* • Chatham-Kent Police • Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs • The AIDS Network
Advocated to provincial government (e.g., to fund diversion programs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association of Municipalities of Ontario • The AIDS Network
Publicly supported (e.g., statement, press release, letter, endorsement of another organizations statement, included in strategic plans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chatham-Kent (Council) • Simcoe-Muskoka (Board of Health) • Regina (the City's community wellness committee) • Ottawa (Board of Health) • Kingston (Council) • Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police • Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police • United Nations Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights • Centre for Addiction and Mental Health • Health Canada's Expert Task Force on Substance Use • Canadian Public Health Association
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Prosecution Service of Canada (released guideline to reserve prosecution for serious manifestations of the offence)

Appendix I
Peel Opioid Strategy Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council (endorsed legalization of all drugs with strict regulation)
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*Note: The HIV Legal Network, Pivot Legal Society, and Canadian Drug Policy Coalition wrote an open letter calling for immediate decriminalization the possession of illicit drugs, which 50 organizations have signed as of April 26, 2021.