

26. Single, op cit., p.15.

27. The figure, money needed by an addict to support his/her drug habit, is obtained from interviews with police officers, both the RCMP and the city police.

28. Depending on how one looks at the figures, the figures given — \$.54 billion to \$1.62 billion — can be looked upon, alternatively, as the value of the trade in illicit drugs in British Columbia.

29. The total OD deaths in British Columbia is almost a thousand annually. The OD death rate would have been very much higher were it not for the administration of “narcan” by ambulance units (“narcan” is an injection that neutralizes the effects of OD, and revives those who could be considered as dead from drug overdose). Interview with a senior police officer, the Vancouver City Police (April 19, 1998).

30. Regarding the downstream “war on drugs” in “market (or “consuming”) countries”, one suggestion

that has been gaining some grounds, at least among academics interested in the narcotics problem, is the “decriminalization” of narcotics. This is aimed at taking away the huge profit accruing to criminal elements, transnational drug cartels or syndicates and drug-financiers that is inherent in the prohibition approach. One other alternative approach favored is the “Harm Reduction” or the public health approach. It is one where addicts are not targeted as criminals (for possessing illicit drugs) — which has been the case in the current law-enforcement or “criminal justice” approach. See, Patricia G. Erickson, “Drugs, Violence and Public Health: What does the Harm Reduction Approach have to Offer?”, Seminar: “Sensible Solutions to the Urban Drug Problem”, The Fraser Institute, April 21, 1998, Vancouver.

31. Gelbard, op cit.

32. Ibid.

