

Vancouver Model

BC Model

Date submitted	May 28, 2021	November 1, 2021													
Status	Awaiting response/approval from Health Canada	Awaiting response/approval from Health Canada													
Jurisdictional scope	People in the City of Vancouver ¹	People in the Province of BC													
Age group protected	19+ (minors remain criminalized)	19+ (minors remain criminalized)													
Substances included <i>Note: both models exclude psilocybin, MDMA, LSD, Ketamine, and GHB, among others.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opioids² - Powder Cocaine - Crack Cocaine - Amphetamines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opioids - Powder cocaine - Crack cocaine - Methamphetamine 													
Threshold quantities³ <i>Note: Vancouver's thresholds are substance-by-substance (i.e. one can possess 2 g opioids + 3 g cocaine + 1.5 g amphetamines, etc.). BC's thresholds are cumulative (one can possess up to 4.5 g total of a substance or combination of substances)</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opioids</td> <td>2 g</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cocaine</td> <td>3 g</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crack cocaine</td> <td>10 rocks (1 g)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphetamines</td> <td>1.5 g</td> </tr> </table>	Opioids	2 g	Cocaine	3 g	Crack cocaine	10 rocks (1 g)	Amphetamines	1.5 g	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Opioids</td> <td rowspan="4">4.5 g cumulative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cocaine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crack cocaine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amphetamines</td> </tr> </table>	Opioids	4.5 g cumulative	Cocaine	Crack cocaine	Amphetamines
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Opioids	4.5 g cumulative														
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Drug seizure	Police will not seize drugs at or below the individual threshold quantities where there is no evidence of trafficking	Police will not seize drugs at or below a total of 4.5 g where there is no evidence of trafficking													
Sharing/possession for the purposes of trafficking	Trafficking at any amount, even below the threshold, remains illegal. Presumably, splitting and sharing of any amount remains illegal	Trafficking at any amount, even below the threshold, remains illegal. "Social supply" under 4.5 g is permitted (i.e. possessing substances with intent to share with another person where there is no profit motive). Note: this may not include the act of sharing itself													
Administrative sanctions	No administrative or other penalties such as fines, document seizure, or mandatory referral to education or treatment	No administrative sanctions or penalties such as fines, document seizure, or mandatory referral to education or treatment													
Referrals	People who possess drugs below the threshold may be given a voluntary referral by police to a health care resource – the VCH Overdose Outreach Team (OOT)	All people found in possession of personal amounts of substances at or below a total of 4.5 g will be given information by police in the form of a pamphlet or card "regarding local health and social services, as well as additional assistance to connect with services if desired. Harm reduction supply provision may also be provided where appropriate"													
Role of Police	Police have discretion to provide the above information.	Police will be responsible for providing the above information. Referrals can only be provided upon request by individual. Police will be equipped with harm reduction supplies including naloxone and drug checking supplies to give individuals													

¹ For both Vancouver and BC: the exemption will apply to all people located in that geographic boundary, residents and non-residents alike, at the time of possession

² For both Vancouver and BC: "Opioids" includes heroin, fentanyl, and other powder street opioids

³ "Threshold quantities" refer to the amount of substance at and under which simple possession is decriminalized. I.e. A threshold quantity of 3 grams means that one can possess that quantity (or less) for their own use. Possession of an amount greater than 3 grams remains criminalized. Possession for the purposes of trafficking or trafficking in any amount (above or below the threshold) remains criminalized