

Drug Report Released

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Dr. Leo Killorn, president of the Alcohol and Drug Problems Institute in Charlottetown, released a report on "Chemical Use Among P.E.I. Students, 1982" This survey was conducted in May of 1982 by the institute and the report was compiled and written by James Killorn, Guidance Councillor at Stonepark Junior High school in Sherwood.

This is the third survey of alcohol and chemical use among highschool students on Prince Edward Island which has been conducted by the institute, the previous two occurring in 1972 and 1976. On this occasion, 1,559 Prince Edward Island students from grade VII through

grade XII were surveyed. Approximately 154 multiple choice questions were answered by the students, with the questions being roughly divided into three different categories: (1) information regarding age, sex, grade, religion, and parental status; (2) student's level of use and experience with drugs, with particular emphasis given to alcohol, marijuana and nicotine; (3) attitudes towards drugs, sources of information about drugs, and parental use of alcohol and drugs.

In the report, comparisons are made between this survey and the surveys which were done six and ten years ago, in order that trends in the use of alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco might be established. There are also comparisons between the alcohol and chemical use in Prince Edward Island students and

students in other areas of Canada and the United States.

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PRIVATE ADDICTION CENTER NOT FEASIBLE.

The Minister of Health and Social Services, Honourable Albert Fogarty, announced that recent major improvements in public addiction services are among the reasons why a private addiction center is not feasible for P.E.I.

"The report of a study conducted by Mason Management Inc. concludes that the perceived need and potential benefits are heavily outweighed by risks including financial failure," stated Mr. Fogarty.

"I commissioned the study in response to suggestions that such a private center could meet the needs of people who in the past have travelled outside the province for treatment in Ontario and the U.S.", the Minister added.

Mr. Fogarty explained that the study showed that such out-of-province travel was now decreasing rapidly, as new and better local treatment programs at public centers were beginning to develop a reputation for effectiveness. Similar improvements in other Maritime provinces have also cut travel from these provinces to almost nil. As a result, there would be few if any referrals from the mainland to a private addiction centre here.

"The report suggests that a 'private' addiction centre could never be independent of government

support without being accredited as a special hospital, as Donwood in Ontario," said Mr. Fogarty. "Accreditation would permit the center to earn per diem fees from public programs and from some private insurance programs but according to the report this accreditation would be highly unlikely. This center would, therefore, need to depend on Government subsidies, probably to no net economic advantages. It could also be perceived as a special center for the 'elite', and cause more controversy than benefits," added the Minister.

"At a time of economic restraint, there are more potential benefits to be gained through further efforts to improve the public services and over the last three years rehabilitation, family care, and counselling programs, as well as expanded facilities, at the local level have been gaining a greater acceptance by the people," stated Mr. Fogarty.

The Minister concluded that P.E.I. addiction services as well as the King's Queen's and Prince County addictions organizations support the MMI study conclusions and all agree that emphasis should now be on renewed efforts to find ways to improve the effectiveness of addiction services already in place within Prince Edward Island.



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