**PRINCIPLES FOR DECISION-MAKING IN CANADA**

**TEMPLATE FOR ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES**

**Overview**

Illustrative examples (or brief case studies) demonstrate the benefits that result when evidence informs public policy development and decision-making processes. Examples should include substantive research and data that shows how evidence-based decision-making has resulted in (or is resulting in) better outcomes for Canadians, increased government accountability and transparency, and/or increased engagement in the democratic process (as stated in the Statement of Principles for Decision-making in Canada). **The project will benefit from as many well-informed, well-written illustrative examples that can be archived for general use on our website, in media interviews, in testimony, and in any other context where bolstering arguments for evidence-based decision-making is required. Your professional experience is a source of good stories!**

**Instructions**

Each example should be concise and clear, a maximum of 3-4 paragraphs. The content should focus on the facts of the example and have three fundamental components:

* A brief explanation of the program, activity or approach used in the example
* How the program, activity or approach used science and/or indigenous knowledge (as defined in the Statement) to inform decision-making in the example used; and,
* How the program, activity or approach has resulted in better outcomes for Canadians in one or more jurisdictions, increased government accountability and transparency, or increased engagement in the democratic process (including data and references that support this conclusion).

While all historical or contemporary examples are by nature works in progress, they should focus on **facts, evidence and objective analysis** to support tangible benefits from including empirical evidence in the decision making process. Since the Science Integrity Project is arguing for the use of evidence and science in decision-making, we need to ensure that we present evidence in our illustrative examples as proof points.

Please email completed templates to [info@scienceintegrity.ca](mailto:info@scienceintegrity.ca) . Thank you!

**PROPOSED TEMPLATE**

1. **First paragraph – setting the stage**

Provide a brief explanation of the program, activity or approach used. For example:

*“Drug harm reduction policies involve services and interventions that aim to reduce the negative effects of drug use without requiring individuals to stop using drugs. Research from Australia, Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland has shown that harm reduction policies can reduce illicit drug use while improving public health outcomes.”*

1. **Second paragraph – What was done?**

Using specifics, describe how the program, activity or approach has worked in the example used. For example:

*“In 2003, the regional health authority in Vancouver opened North America’s first medically supervised drug injection facility as a harm reduction measure. Insite – and the legal exemption that allowed it to open – was approved in response to a public health emergency in which HIV rates among injection drug users rose to nearly 30% and fatal overdoses reached epidemic levels.”*

1. **Third paragraph - what were the outcomes?**

Demonstrate how this program, activity or approach has resulted in tangible benefits (see ‘Overview’), with specific data and/or references. For example:

*“Since opening, over 30 peer-reviewed studies have documented the ways in which Insite, complemented by other harm reduction measures such as needle exchanges, has benefited the public. These positive outcomes include a reduction in overdose deaths in the Downtown Eastside by 35%[[1]](#footnote-1), a reduction in HIV risk behaviors such as syringe sharing and associated rates of disease transmission, and reduced public injecting. Insite has also led to higher enrollment in addiction treatment and other positive outcomes.”*

**A Final Request**

If you have suggestions for us on how to improve this template, please let us know. For instance, would the stories be more powerful if each had a quote from a protagonist, or had an authorship byline from a scientist-practitioner? Do you have suggestions for others we should invite to tell their stories in this format? Any and all input is welcome!

1. Marshall BDL, Milloy MJ, Wood E, Montaner JSG, Kerr T. 2011. Reduction in overdose mortality after the opening of North America’s first medically supervised safer injecting facility: A retrospective population-based study. Lancet. DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(10)62353-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)