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HEALTH

**Spending on Drug Enforcement, Treatment,
Prevention and Harm Reduction Measures**

Question by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

THE SENATE

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SPENDING ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT, PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION MEASURES

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: My question is to the Leader of the Government in the Senate. I was glad to hear she was a figure skater. There was a rumour over here that she was a right winger. I am glad we have that straightened out.

On Tuesday, May 13, I asked the government leader about safe injection sites and funding for treatment versus enforcement. In her response, she stated that 75 per cent of the monies spent go toward treatment and the remaining funds are spent on enforcement.

After consulting with the experts from the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, I found that the exact opposite is true. According to their most recent findings, \$271 million was spent on law enforcement, which is 73 per cent, and only 14 per cent of the remaining funds were dedicated toward treatment measures. Even after taking into

consideration the new spending by this government, the change is negligible.

• (1505)

I assure honourable senators that I understand why it is difficult to obtain the proper figures. Spending is spread across many departments and it changes from year to year. However, my question is: Can the leader please try to provide me with a breakdown of not only the new but the existing government spending on enforcement, treatment, prevention and harm reduction measures?

Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government and Secretary of State (Seniors)): Honourable senators, I will take that question as notice.

The new national anti-drug strategy that was announced last year contained significant dollars. Two-thirds of it was for prevention and treatment and one-third was for enforcement. I will take the question as notice in an attempt to ascertain the exact breakdown of figures.
