

Montreal Street Drug, an overlook, spring 2017

Some notes on the Montreal street drug scene:

- Montreal is a quite mellow North American city, which much less risk in general of casual violence, including during a black market transaction. That said be careful and try to size up your potential seller, as an important portion of people purporting to be dealers are just trying to scam people of their money so they can themselves score. Nothing new, but our street scene is alas rife with scammers, particularly in its hotspots.
- Don't buy a lot of product from an unknown source without an opportunity to properly test the goods. If it looks too good to be true, and they do not have a phone number or reliable means to get in touch, well, it probably is not good at all ;)
- Don't forget the usual precautions on doing drug transactions: while using is NOT illegal in Canada, possession (with or without intent to sell) and traffic are criminalized.
- If you are stopped or detained by the police, stay calm, polite and diplomatic. In some precincts, cops have even been trained to let users finish their hits before starting the ID check and ensuing process.
- While using is again, NOT illegal in Canada, you can be charged with being under the influence, just like a drunk, if you're breaking the peace or in any other way are obviously intoxicated. Keep it classy ! ;)

Heroin: \$30 a point (100mg), \$50 two points, \$60 quarter gram, \$100 half a gram, prices for a full gram or more depends on level of connections. Usually \$150 or more per gram for a low level contact that can sell by the gram. Purity is 15-30%, but is often laced with fentanyl at street level to have it stay competitive with black market prescription opiates, potency and price point wise, e.g keep heroin as being perceived as being the king of the crop, the best bang for your buck, etc. In the same vein, fentanyl salt is at times the only active ingredient in street sold 'heroin'. We strongly urge visiting users to slowly experiment to find a proper dosage, to not do so alone (if possible) and to avail themselves of the availability of naloxone kits beforehand.

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid, Hydromorph Contin):



Figure 1 dilaudid 4 mg

Can pretty much replace pure heroin on a mg to mg basis (the latter being slightly more potent), so that a 30% grade 100mg of heroin would need about 30mg of hydromorphone to achieve similar effects.

The safest way to score on the streets is in dilaudid form, 4mg barrel shaped yellow pills which sell for \$5 dollars each. If they're not exactly like the picture shape and color wise, it's something else : in doubt, do not hesitate to refuse the offered goods and move on. Dilaudid 4mg are the staple of the Montreal street prescription opiate scene, most likely outselling most if not all other prescription opioids on the black market. Thus, they should be the go to solution for anyone stuck without a contact.



Figure 2 dilaudid 8mg

Dilaudid also comes in 8mg tablets (see image above), which are white and a weird rounded triangular shape. They go for \$10 each. In this writer's experience, there are more often problems with the supply of 8mg tabs then with the 4 mg ones.



Figure 3 sample of popular Hydromorph Contin capsules (from top to bottom : 30, 24, 12 and 6mg)

You can also get hydromorphone in capsules, as hydromorph contin, but one should only get them from a reputable source as they can easily be tampered with. They are also harder to prepare, as they need to be opened and emptied before crushing the beads into a powder, which due to the hardness and size of the beads is much more involved than crushing a few 4 or 8 mg pills. Hydromorph Contin comes in many dosages, the most common being 6, 12, 24 and 30mg, which respectively sell for 5, 10, 20 and 25 dollars.



Figure 4 hydromorph contin beads

Fentanyl: As itself, it is sold in patch form, or as heroin in powder form. A patch needs some preparation for injection as to release as much fentanyl as possible into the water solution by piercing the patch with your needle, adding a touch of ascorbic acid (or vinegar) to the water, heating up the lot, then filtering the solution for injection. Patches are sometimes also “chased”, just like chasing the dragon, replacing the foil with the patch itself, BEWARE, you will be inhaling plastic this way. The major caveat with patches is that for the same hourly release dosage (e.g 100mcg/hour over 3 days) different brands use different release mechanisms resulting in a total amount of fentanyl that varies widely and can even double for the same release rating. When you are chasing or injecting a solution made from a patch, you are getting a dose based on the total quantity of fentanyl in the patch, NOT the hourly dosage. You can find the total mg in the patch and other ingredients on the package in small print. Again, be extremely careful and wary of ODs : experiment gradually, don't be alone and have Naloxone available if possible.



Figure 5 fentanyl patches (there are also other brands available here in Montreal)

That said, patches are sold according to their microgram/hour release rating, not the total fentanyl in the patch. Prices vary widely mostly between 50 cents to a dollar per mcg per hour. A 25mcg patch might be 20, while a 15 \$7, a 100 \$60. Again, this is a very potent molecule, this can't be stressed enough if you haven't experimented with it already.

Make sure the patches are sealed!

Cocaine: \$20 a quarter gram, very low quality at street level, and more common in rock (crack) form: some users dissolve crack with ascorbic acid (vitamin C) to inject with rather than buy the powdered form when they don't have access to powdered cocaine suitable to injection. You can find bar quality sniffing cocaine is many popular and not so popular bars in the city, if you just want to sniff a couple lines, and don't need 1980s quality yeyo.

Crack: \$ 20 and \$50 are the principal quantities. Mostly sodium bicarbonate made, but some ammoniac cooking too. Quantities vary from around .1 to .15 for street level \$20 to around .2 for a more reputable source. Fifties (\$50) can be anything from around .25 to a full half gram, depending on provenance. This is in rock form. The quality can also vary a lot, but buyers beware, most pre cooked crack is of very bad quality at the street level, as well as in crackhouses (piaule in the local French slang, which would also apply to a shooting gallery). You can get free Pyrex glass tubes (stems) from the various needle exchanges, peers and outreach workers doing proximity work.

If you end up buying crack cocaine for injection purposes, you can get small quantities of ascorbic acid in powder form from the needle exchanges for a small fee (less than a dollar) so you can dissolve it in water by heating up a solution of crack cocaine with a dash of ascorbic acid. Go easy on the acid, as it'll really burn if you put too much.

Speed: \$5 a pill, usually white, various designs. Quality varies greatly, as a good batch sees cheap knockoffs appearing forthwith, and ending up being sold together, as quickly reduced prices encourage buying in quantities of \$20.

Extasy, MDMA: Not so much presence directly on the streets. Extasy is the same pills as speed but colored (red, pink or blue), while MDMA comes in powder form, either in capsules or baggies. Need price info still, totally out of that loop.

Crystal Meth: Quite rare, and rarely offered by your street slinging hustler. Needle exchanges sell pipes to chase crank so there is certainly plenty of the stuff around, just don't know anything more about it. Sorry.

Cannabis, Pot, Hashish: Street wise, you'll mostly find pot, and generally the quality is good to excellent, and it's normal to demand to check the product beforehand, even if you're just scoring \$5 off a guy on the street. Prices are \$10 a gram, \$20-25 for an 1/8 ounce (3.5 g) which can be anything from 2 grams at the lower price point to a full count of excellent weed. Don't settle for crap, be more patient. Or just buy enough for a good one, and keep looking : there is no lack of supply 8p

IT IS STILL ILLEGAL !!!! But unless you are being provocative with cops or lighting up in cafes or bars, you can smoke a joint, vape whatever walking on the streets of downtown Montreal, sitting in a park, etc. Most people are quite tolerant of pot smoking, whether they partake or not. Use your head, and enjoy the fine selection of cannabis available in Montreal.

LSD, Shrooms, DMT, other psychedelics: There are still around, but this old cat has no clue on what that scene is like these days.

If you have additional information you'd like to see included here, just go post in the comments section here (insert link)