



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 10, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** June 30, 2025
From: Councillor Gardiner
Subject: Island Health's "The Harbour" Safe Consumption Site

BACKGROUND

Discussion of a location for a Safe Consumption Site (SCS) in the City of Victoria was underway in 2008.

June, 2018, saw the opening of Island Health's Supervised Consumption Service Centre, referred to as "The Harbour". This SCS operates under a federal exemption (s.56.1) to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act. The current 3-year exemption runs to June 30, 2027.

Dr. Réka Gustafson, Island Health's Vice President, Population & Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer, told Council at Committee of the Whole on June 12 that illicit drugs are permitted and consumed on site. She stated further that those accessing the drug supervision service tend to be regular clientele while most of the those encamped on the 900 block of Pandora do not seek supervision of drug consumption.

However, as the only Island Health SCS in the region "The Harbour", located at 941 Pandora Avenue, has become a magnet for those addicted to drugs and for drug dealers who prey on the weak and ill among those encamped in our city.

The safety of our city, the health and well being of our residents and the viability of our downtown businesses must be priorities of this Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council request the Mayor to formally request, by letter to, and in conversation with, Island Health CEO Kathy MacNeil and Board Chair Leah Hollins, that Island Health cease operations of any Safe Consumption Site in the City of Victoria as of August 31, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A blue ink signature of Councillor Gardiner.

Councillor Gardiner