

Pamela Martin

Subject: FW: for your consideration
Attachments: travel display 2.jpg; travel display.jpg

I am writing you in hopes for help and support for this cause.

I would like to display my memorial exhibit on the Johnson Street bridge walkway or Topaz park for a week or two.

I made this display to place on my back fence in Comox. It is a visual memorial of the overdose crisis happening in Canada. Since it's been on display, the response has been overwhelming for such a small community. People have been knocking on my door with thanks and stories of their own. Ribbons, thank you notes and cards have been left anonymously. I've had TV, radio and newspaper coverage and many others have travelled to see the display. All of this made me realize the significance of this visual display and that it must travel across the country starting with Courtenay.

Each tiny piece of yarn represents some one's child who died in 2017 of overdose in Canada, approximately 4000. The flags, over 100, are hand painted and reflect a fraction of the names available at the time of making them, majority of names Comox Valley. The empty white flags with tiny hearts are the number of people expected to die of overdose this week in BC alone. There is an interactive part, where people are invited to tie a purple ribbon with the name of someone who has died or are currently suffering; over 150 ribbons have been tied thus far. Attached are two professional banner proofs. The hearts are also interactive for people to write in loved one names of those who have died. Enclosed are pictures of original display, still on my fence and the display for travelling.

This display in full is approx, 120 ft long, but can be reduced to 70 ft. It is more powerful in full length. I have a video but am unable to send it. This may work. <https://www.facebook.com/judith.conway.378/videos/10157897313734325/?t=12>

The large majority affected and dying from this opioid crisis are shrouded by silence, stigma and shame. Over 88% of people died alone in homes. In Canada, as of recent, it is now the number one cause of men 39 and under. World wide numbers of overdose deaths have tripled since 2013 and as the opioid crisis worsens it is actually lowering life expectancy in Canada.

Our son Matthew Yvon Conway died of Fentanyl overdose on November 5, 2017. Matthew was a strong, hardworking, loving young man. He was a fitness trainer and managed a gym up until the day he died. Matthew is like so many suffering and dying daily.

We are in a crisis. Awareness, conversation and action is needed. This display is powerful and informative yet peaceful. Community support would be greatly appreciated to continue increasing awareness.

Johnson street bridge walkway or Topaz park have ample room for this display, easy accessibility, not a traffic hazard and would show the city of Victoria are engaged in this crisis that effects their community and Canada wide.

It's too late for the ones lost but never too late to save those suffering in silence...

For your consideration

Judith Conway