

Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 24th, 2019

Date: January 23rd, 2019

From: Councillor Potts, Councillor Loveday, Councillor Isitt, and Councillor Alto

Subject: Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives in British Columbia

Recommendation:

THAT Council endorse the following resolution and direct staff to forward copies to the Premier of British Columbia, the Ministers responsible for Local Government, Health, Mental Health and Addictions, the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention, and member local governments and regional districts within the Capital Region, AVICC and UBCM, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support:

Resolution: Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives British Columbia

WHEREAS It has been two years since B.C. declared a public-health emergency due to increased overdoses, yet the death toll for those consuming substances continues to rise due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply;

WHEREAS people with opioid use disorder, a chronic relapsing medical condition, are at high risk of overdose-related harms including death;

WHEREAS an estimated 42,200 people inject toxic substances in British Columbia;

WHEREAS it is not possible for the treatment system to rapidly increase services fast enough to manage this number of people as “patients” within a medical treatment model given the many challenges in achieving and retaining the people on opioid use disorder treatment;

WHEREAS people at risk of overdose in British Columbia do not have access to a safer alternative to the unpredictable, highly-toxic drug supply;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in an effort to save lives and reduce harm due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery, that the Province of British Columbia work with local communities, Health Authorities across the Province, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and the Ministry of Health ensure that people at risk of overdose harm have access to safer alternatives.

Respectfully Submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'S' shape.

Sarah Potts

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a series of sharp, angular strokes and a prominent 'J'.

Jeremy Loveday

A handwritten signature in blue ink, with a stylized 'B' and 'I'.

Ben Isitt

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'A'.

Marianne Alto