



Sechelt  
Office of the Mayor

June 5, 2019

Attn: All UBCM Mayors and Chairs,

**RE: Fentanyl Crisis in BC – Call to Action: Help promote naloxone distribution and training in your community**

Dear Mayors and Chairs,

Despite escalated efforts across the province, B.C. continues to see record numbers of illicit drug overdose deaths. Many of these deaths result from people using drugs alone. With four people a day dying of a preventable overdose, B.C. is experiencing the worst public health crisis the province has seen in decades. Naloxone is proven to save lives by reviving a person who has overdosed to give them enough time to get to the hospital. Naloxone cannot be self-administered, so drug users must rely on friends or family to help.

On January 29, 2019 Town of Gibsons Mayor Bill Beamish, shíshálh Nation Chief Warren Paull, Sunshine Coast Regional District Chair Lori Pratt and District of Sechelt Mayor Darnelda Siegers participated in a media event where we received naloxone training to raise awareness and fight stigma. We are writing to encourage you, as community leaders, to take action by helping to promote naloxone distribution and training in BC communities, to raise awareness about the fentanyl crisis, fight stigma and save lives.

Staging a media event like we did can help, but there are many other ways to start saving lives in your community as well. The latest Overdose Response Progress Update (Nov 2018 – Feb 2019) includes statistics and information on many programs and grants that are now available.

Sincerely,

Darnelda Siegers  
Mayor, District of Sechelt

Lori Pratt  
Chair, Sunshine Coast Regional District

Warren Paull  
hiwus, shíshálh Nation

Bill Beamish  
Mayor, Town of Gibsons