



CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

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www.portalberni.ca

Our File #4710-01

November 26, 2019



Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps,

At a Regular Meeting of Council held November 25, 2019, Council for the City of Port Alberni received your letter dated November 12, 2019 regarding the City's resolutions regarding safer drug supply to save lives and observed inhalation sites for overdose prevention.

Please note that Council is pleased to support your resolutions regarding the opioid crisis and will write a letter of support to the Province of British Columbia. We have also requested that the Provincial Government give serious consideration for funding more treatment facilities which at present are oversubscribed and preventing timely treatment for those in need.

On behalf of Council we thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Yours truly
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

Davina Hartwell
City Clerk



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COPY

Premier John Horgan
PO Box 9041
Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

On behalf of Council for the City of Port Alberni we wish to provide our support for the City of Victoria's resolution in regards to the opioid crisis.

(B171) Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives

Whereas it has been two years since BC 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;

An whereas people with opioid use disorder, a chronic relapsing medical condition, are at high risk of overdose – related harms including death and an estimated 42,200 people inject toxic substances in British Columbia, 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, 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.

(B172) Observed Inhalation Sites for Overdose Prevention

Whereas British Columbia is currently experiencing an unprecedented public health emergency due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and smoking or inhalation is the second most common mode of consumption among all people who have died from a suspected illicit drug overdose and the most common mode of consumption among men and those between the ages of 15 and 29;

And whereas observed consumption services (i.e. supervised consumption services and overdose prevention services) are evidence-based harm reduction approaches shown to reduce overdose-related harm, and there is not adequate access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation where communities are facing crisis;

Therefore be it resolved that to ensure that people at risk of overdose across BC have access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation, that the Province of British Columbia fund the work through local communities, Health Authorities across the Province, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health to provide these services as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.

In addition to the above, Council of the City of Port Alberni also respectfully requests that the Provincial government give serious consideration for funding more treatment facilities which at present are oversubscribed and preventing timely treatment for those in need.

It is our hope that the Province will respond favorably to this resolution and begin to implement the necessary changes.

Yours truly
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Davina Hartwell".

Davina Hartwell
City Clerk