



Village of Tahsis

December 12, 2019

Honourable Judy Darcy
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Room 346, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Darcy,

I am writing on behalf of Village of Tahsis Council in support of two City of Victoria proposed resolutions which were not considered at the 2019 UBCM convention due to time constraints.

The resolutions are below:

(B 171) Safer Drug Supply to Save Live

Whereas it has been two years since BC declared a public-health emergency due to increase overdoses, yet the death toll for those consuming substances continues to rise due to a unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply;

And 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.

Village of Tahsis
977 South Maquinna Drive
P.O. Box 219 Tahsis BC V0P 1X0
TEL: (250) 934-6344 FAX: (250) 934-6622
www.villageoftahsis.com

(B 172) 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 and 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.

Tahsis Council urges the Provincial Government to act on these resolutions to reduce the harm caused by unsafe substances and insufficient supports.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and last name "Davis" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Martin Davis on behalf of Tahsis Council

cc: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Mayor Lisa Helps, City of Victoria