

Office of the Chair

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December 18, 2019

Sent via email only:

MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca
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The Honourable Judy Darcy, MLA
Minister of Mental Health & Addictions
PO Box 9672 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P6

The Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ministers:

Re: UBCM Resolutions – Safer Drug Supply and Inhalation Sites

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board recently received correspondence from the City of Victoria respecting two resolutions which, due to time constraints, were not considered at the 2019 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual Convention.

Resolution B171 concerns safer drug supply and resolution B172 pertains to observed inhalation sites for overdose prevention. Like other local governments across the Province, we are deeply concerned with the ongoing opioid crisis and the tragic toll it is taking on individuals, families and communities. This crisis is truly threatening the health and wellbeing of our communities and is straining local first responders, healthcare providers, and others resources.

At the December 17, 2019 regular meeting, the CVRD Board passed the following resolution that largely reflects the resolutions proposed by the City of Victoria, with an amendment to include further reference to the toxic drug supply issue that is a central part of the public health emergency in our communities:

WHEREAS the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities endorsed two resolutions from the City of Victoria for consideration at the Union of BC Municipalities Annual Convention which if implemented by the Province of BC, could start saving lives immediately;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the board write a letter to the Provincial Government expressing strong support of the following resolutions:

(B171) Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives

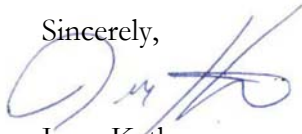
Be it resolved that in an effort to save lives and reduce harm due to an unpredictable and highly-toxic drug supply, and as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery, that the Province of British Columbia work with local communities, Health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

(B172) Observed Inhalation Sites for Risk Mitigation of Overdose and Toxic Drug Supply

Be it resolved that to ensure that people at risk of overdose and toxic supply 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.

On behalf of the board, I am asking that you work with your ministerial colleagues to take further action on these matters. I applaud the Provincial Government for declaring a public-health emergency concerning the high rate of overdoses but clearly more work and resources is needed to stem the epidemic we are facing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Ketler', is positioned above the printed name.

Jesse Ketler
Chair

cc: Lisa Helps, Mayor, City of Victoria
Claire Trevena, MLA, North Island
Ronna-Rae Leonard, MLA, Courtenay-Comox
Scott Fraser, MLA, Mid-Island Pacific Rim