

December 16th, 2019

Minister of Health
Honourable Adrian Dix
Room 337 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

MAYOR'S OFFICE
DEC 23 2019
VICTORIA, B.C.

Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Honourable Judy Darcy
Room 346 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Honourable Adrian Dix and Honourable Judy Darcy,

RE: Request to Support Resolutions B171 Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives and B172 Observed Inhalation Sites for Overdose Prevention

On Friday, December 13th, 2019 the Board of the North Coast Regional District received correspondence from the City of Victoria regarding their request to Support Resolutions B171 Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives and B172 Observed Inhalation Sites for Overdose Prevention.

The Board would like to express its support of Resolutions B171 Safer Drug Supply to Save Lives and B172 Observed Inhalation Sites for Overdose Prevention. The Board requests that the Province of British Columbia favourably considers these resolutions as this is a pressing matter that affects our communities as well as many other communities in British Columbia.

Best regards,



Barry Pages

Chair

Attach: Correspondence from the City of Victoria
Cc: City of Victoria, UBCM Executive



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November 12, 2019

Dear UBCM Member Local Governments,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration of these resolutions and that you share this support with the Provincial Government for the following resolutions. Unfortunately, despite the fact that we have an opioid crisis across the Province, these resolutions did not make it onto the floor of the UBCM at this year's convention as the resolutions session ran out of time.

(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;

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.

(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;