

“INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY (IOAD)”

- WHEREAS** *International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is a global event which provides opportunity for people to publicly mourn the loss of loved ones without shame or guilt; and*
- WHEREAS** *International overdose Awareness Day was first declared in Australia in 2001 and has been marked internationally every year in cities across the world ever since; and*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD aims to raise awareness of the overdose crisis and reduce the stigma of overdose death; and*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD aims to raise awareness that the BC Coroners Service reported the number of people lost to drug overdoses in BC in 2019 was 981, about 2.7 a day; and*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD aims to raise awareness that more drug users died in British Columbia in June 2020 than in any one month ever before in the province's history, that there were 175 illicit drug toxicity deaths in BC in June, an average of 5.8 fatalities every day – and that these numbers push BC's total to 728 lives lost to illegal drugs in the first six months of 2020; and*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD decries the lack of collective action that leads to each preventable overdose death – each one a human being, a member of a family and a member of our community, with each loss slashing a wide path of grief; and*
- WHEREAS** *Through IOAD we send a strong message to substance users that they are valued and that the community is working to mitigate harms and overdose; and*
- WHEREAS** *We support those who use substances by urging government and health decision-makers to create evidence based policies and wide access to treatments; and*
- WHEREAS** *We remind the public that drug use and overdose can happen to anyone in any family; and*
- WHEREAS** *Through IOAD we wish to prevent overdose deaths and stimulate discussion in Victoria and world-wide about overdose prevention bring information on services available to our community.*

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim Monday, August 31st, 2020 as “**INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY (IOAD)**” on the **HOMELANDS** of the Lekwungen speaking **SONGHEES AND ESQUIMALT PEOPLE** in the **CITY OF VICTORIA, CAPITAL CITY** of the **PROVINCE** of **BRITISH COLUMBIA**.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this August 6th, Two Thousand and Twenty.

**LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Sponsored by:
Moms Stop the Harm**