“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 herewith set my hand this August 6th, Two Thousand and Twenty.

LISA HELPS Sponsored by:
MAYOR Moms Stop the Harm
CITY OF VICTORIA BRITISH COLUMBIA