



CITY OF VICTORIA

PROCLAMATION

“INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY”

- 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 British Columbia’s coroners service reports that more people have died from suspected illicit drug toxicity in the first five months of 2021 than in any other year during the same period – 851 people died between January and May, surpassing the previous high of 704 reported for those months in 2017 by almost 21 per cent; and*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD highlights that May 2021 was the 15th consecutive month in which British Columbia experienced more than 100 deaths due to drug toxicity, and that while British Columbia declared a public health emergency more than five years ago because of deaths related to illicit drugs, there were a record 1,176 illicit drug overdose deaths in the province last year and there have been more than 7,000 deaths since the emergency was declared; 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 about overdose prevention and share information on services available to our community.*

NOW, THEREFORE *I do hereby proclaim August 31st, 2021, as “INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY” 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 5th day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.*

LISA HELPS
MAYOR
CITY OF VICTORIA
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sponsored by:
MOMS STOP
THE HARM