

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

NOV 09 2016

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

MAYOR'S OFFICE

NOV 18 2016

VICTORIA, B.C.

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of the City of Victoria
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1P6

Dear Madam Mayor:

I am writing to you regarding an Opioid Conference and Summit that I am co-hosting with the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Honourable Eric Hoskins, on November 18 and 19, 2016. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the current Canadian crisis of opioid overdose and death and identify potential solutions. The second day will consist of a health-focused summit with a small group of regulators and key stakeholders who will have committed to take concrete, measurable, and publicly reported actions to help address the crisis.

Many Canadian cities are at the forefront of this crisis. As I am sure you would agree, comprehensive actions to address this crisis will involve a number of stakeholders including health professionals, addiction experts, provinces, territories, municipalities, and other stakeholders. This is a complex issue, and there is no single step that is going to solve this problem, but I am committed to taking action and to working with partners across Canada to address the opioid crisis.

The conference will be in an invitation-only event, held on Friday, November 18, and will include a broad range of speakers and participants. We will, nevertheless, be inviting mayors of cities, such as yours, from whom we anticipate possibly receiving an application for a supervised consumption site. Therefore, I would like to invite you to join me at this conference. Details are included in the attached agenda.

Please have your office confirm your interest in attending to Dr. Kirsten Mattison, Acting Director of the Office of Drug Policy at Health Canada. Dr. Mattison can be reached at kirsten.mattison@canada.ca.

I truly appreciate your support as we work together to address this pressing issue.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.

Attachment

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