

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
☐ CAO	☐ Mayor/Council	
☐		
RECEIVED: NOV 15 2019		
Referred: <i>Rachel</i>		
☐ For Action	☐ For Response	☐ COTW
☐ For Report	☒ Council Agenda	☐ IC

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;

And whereas observed consumption services (i.e. supervised consumption services and overdose prevention services) are evidence-based harm reduction approaches shown to reduce overdose-related harm, and there is not adequate access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation where communities are facing crisis:

Therefore be it resolved that to ensure that people at risk of overdose across BC have access to observed consumption services that provide space for inhalation, that the Province of British Columbia fund and work through local communities, Health Authorities across the Province, the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions and the Ministry of Health to provide these services as part of a holistic response to the public-health emergency, including prevention, treatment, and recovery.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Deborah Liske

Subject: FW: City of Victoria Resolution re: Safer Drug Supply and Observed Inhalation Sites
Attachments: 2019-11-12 Council Motion - UBCM Members - Local Government Support forpdf

From: Christine Havelka [<mailto:chavelka@victoria.ca>]

Sent: November-14-19 3:27 PM

To: Christine Havelka

Subject: City of Victoria Resolution re: Safer Drug Supply and Observed Inhalation Sites

Good afternoon,

Please circulate to your Councils/Boards the attached letter regarding a Victoria City Council resolution.

Best regards,

Christine

Christine Havelka
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