



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: pm@pm.gc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

Your office will recall from previous correspondence, these additional requests build upon the advocacy work presented by our resolutions of September 14, 2020. Today we see lives continuing to be lost in record-breaking numbers due to the overdose crisis. British Columbia has suffered a record breaking year for lost lives due to a toxic illicit drug supply. New approaches and additional actions are needed to address this crisis.

On behalf of Saanich Council, we ask for your help in addressing this serious health crisis.

A copy of the report dated January 11, excerpt of the January 25 meeting minutes and a copy of the previous correspondence are enclosed for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes".

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

c: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C, M.P.
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

c: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

Dear Minister:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

c: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: MinFinance / FinanceMin (FIN) <fin.minfinance-financemin.fin@canada.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: Ltr to Minister of Finance C. Freeland - Declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency - January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Resolution

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

The Department of Finance acknowledges receipt of your electronic correspondence. Please be assured that we appreciate receiving your comments.

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation, we apologize in advance for any delay in responding to your enquiry. In the meantime, information on Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan is available on the Government of Canada website at www.canada.ca/coronavirus or by calling 1-800 O Canada (1-800-622-6232) or 1-833-784-4397.

Le ministère des Finances Canada accuse réception de votre courriel. Nous vous assurons que vos commentaires sont les bienvenus.

En raison de la fluidité de la crise de la COVID-19, il est possible que nous retardions à vous répondre et nous nous en excusons. Entre-temps, les informations au sujet du Plan d'intervention économique du Canada pour répondre à la COVID-19 sont disponibles dans le site Web du gouvernement du Canada au www.canada.ca/coronavirus ou en composant le 1-800 O Canada (1-800-622-6232) ou le 1-833-784-4397.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier,

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) FW: Ltr to Premier Horgan - Opioid Crisis - Reaffirmation of October 5, 2020 Saanich Council Correspondence / Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Overdose Action Plan
Attachments: Premier-Horgan.pdf

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Dear Mayor Haynes:

Thank you for your email on behalf of Saanich Council regarding a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this important issue and will be sure to share your correspondence with Premier Horgan at our earliest opportunity.

On your behalf we have also provided a copy of your message to the Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, for her review and consideration. Please be assured that your suggestions will be included in any of the Minister's related discussions going forward.

Thank you, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts and recommendations with us. We wish you all the best.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2021 1:27 PM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Premier Horgan - Opioid Crisis - Reaffirmation of October 5, 2020 Saanich Council Correspondence / Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Overdose Action Plan

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting, reaffirming its earlier request of October 5, 2020 to senior governments on the overdose crisis and to further request the development of a comprehensive overdose action plan.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If further information is needed please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)

Rachel Mattiuz

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: Ltr to Premier Horgan - Opioid Crisis - Reaffirmation of October 5, 2020 Saanich Council Correspondence / Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Overdose Action Plan

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Due to the volume of incoming messages, this is an automated response to let you know that your email has been received and will be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.

If your inquiry more appropriately falls within the mandate of a Ministry or other area of government, staff will refer your email for review and consideration.

For information on the BC Recovery Benefit and BC's Restart Plan, please refer to the information below:

The BC Recovery Benefit is a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents, and up to \$500 for eligible individuals. Online applications will open on December 18, 2020. For more information, please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>

BC's Restart Plan lays out a series of steps that we will take together to protect people and ensure that our province can come back from COVID-19 stronger than before. For further information, please visit: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc>

If you are writing about COVID-19, please refer to the information below:

If you or a family member believes they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please complete the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>. If the tool advises you are demonstrating relevant symptoms, please call 8-1-1 to speak with a healthcare professional.

For the answers to common questions about COVID-19, please visit:
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

To learn more about federal government programs and information, please click here:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

John Horgan



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable Sheila Malcolmson, M.L.A.
Minister of Mental Health & Addictions
c/o PO Box 9672 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9P6

Dear Minister,

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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On behalf of Saanich Council, we ask for your help in addressing this serious health crisis.

A copy of the report dated January 11, excerpt of the January 25 meeting minutes and a copy of the previous letter are enclosed for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes".

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX <MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: Ltr to Minister of Mental Health / Addictions S. Malcolmson - Opioid Crisis - Reaffirmation of October 5, 2020 Saanich Council Correspondence / Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Overdose Action Plan

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for your email. This response is to confirm that your message has been received by my ministerial office in Victoria and will be reviewed as soon as possible.

Please be assured that we read every email that comes in. We ask that you include your address/postal code in your email, as well as a phone number so that we can follow up with you if needed. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to return every email due to the very high volume of correspondence and requests received by our office and our limited capacity.

The Province of BC recently announced a \$5 million supplement to expand virtual mental health supports across the Province due to the COVID-19 Crisis.

We are working in partnership with Foundry Youth Centres, the Canadian Mental Health Association – BC Division (CMHA-BC), the BC Psychological Association, and other community partners to deliver new and expanded mental health services. These include:

- Providing more access to online programs for mental health by expanding the Bounce Back<<https://bouncebackbc.ca/>> program that provides online coaching and the Living Life to the Full <<https://livinglifetothefull.ca/>> program that helps people deal with life challenges and learn self-management skills (Canadian Mental Health Association)
- Expanding access to no and low-cost community counselling programs – including those that serve immigrant and refugee populations - and enabling them to be delivered virtually (Community Action Initiative<<https://caibc.ca/>>)
- Increasing access to online peer support and system navigation (Canadian Mental Health Association BC Chapter<<https://cmha.bc.ca/>>)
- Providing virtual supports for youth ages 12-24 by making Foundry services available across the Province through phone, video, chat and text (Foundry BC<<https://foundrybc.ca/>>)
- Providing more online tools and resources to help people assess and manage their own mental health
- Supporting frontline healthcare workers through a new online hub and providing virtual peer support (Canadian Mental Health Association BC Chapter<<https://cmha.bc.ca/>>)
- A new online psychological support service for healthcare workers (Canadian Mental Health Association BC Chapter<<https://cmha.bc.ca/>>)

The Province of BC will also soon be launching a free 24/7 mental health counselling and referral service available to all post-secondary student in every public and private institution across BC including domestic, international, full time or part time students.

If you are a Senior who is looking for support, please contact BC211 by simply dialing 2-1-1 from your phone. Or visit <http://www.bc211.ca>

For all other COVID-19 information please visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19>

Should you have a situation that requires immediate attention:

- If you are in crisis please call the crisis line<<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/>> at 310-6789 or 1-800-784-2433 to receive immediate response and support, available 24/7
- If you are a child or youth and need immediate counselling or support please call the Kids Help Phone<<https://kidshelpphone.ca/>> 1-800-668-6868 for, available 24/7
- For mental health and substance use information, resources, and peer support for children, youth and their families from across BC please contact the Kelty Mental Health Centre<<http://keltymentalhealth.ca/>> at 1-800-665-1822, available Monday to Friday 9:30am - 5pm
- Service BC, <<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/citizens-services/servicebc>> toll-free at 1-800-663-7867 or 604-660-2421 and they will connect you to the appropriate government ministry
- If you are a senior please contact BC 211, dial 211 on your phone or visit <http://www.bc211.ca> to receive information about community and social services in British Columbia
- The KUU-US Crisis Response Service: Provides 24/7 culturally-aware crisis support to Indigenous people in B.C. Call 1-800-588-8717 or visit: <http://www.kuu-uscrisisline.ca/>
- For issues under Federal jurisdiction, please contact your local MP. To find the contact information for your MP please visit the Parliament of Canada directory<<https://lop.parl.ca/ParlInfo/compilations/HouseOfCommons/MemberByPostalCode.aspx>>
- If you are a New Westminster resident contacting me in my capacity as your MLA, please contact my local constituency at (236) 362-0012 or by email at sheila.malcolmson.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Thank you again for reaching out to my office and for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely,

Hon. Sheila Malcolmson
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: Hlth.Minister@gov.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable Adrian Dix, M.L.A.
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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On behalf of Saanich Council, we ask for your help in addressing this serious health crisis.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes".

Fred Haynes
Mayor
Enclosures

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX <HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:17 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: Ltr to Health Minister A. Dix - Opioid Crisis - Reaffirmation of October 5, 2020 Saanich Council Correspondence / Comprehensive Pan-Canadian Overdose Action Plan

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for taking the time to write to my office. I appreciate hearing feedback and suggestions from the people of British Columbia as we work together to improve our health care system for everyone in BC, and as we try to continue to navigate how this COVID-19 pandemic has affected almost every aspect of our daily lives. Thank you to everyone who is practicing social distancing, those who are self-isolating and those supporting their families and neighbours – we will get through this together.

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of correspondence regarding this pandemic, it is not always possible for my office to respond to every email and phone call; however, please be assured that we are listening and we do read every email that comes into my office. Also, incoming requests for meetings will take longer than normal to process and respond to directly. In the event your inquiry falls under the responsibility of another Ministry, my office will refer your email appropriately for their review and consideration.

If you require immediate medical assistance, please refer to the available contacts listed below:

* If there is a medical emergency, please dial 911 from any phone.

* If you are in emotional distress or require immediate mental health support, please call the Crisis Line <<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/>> at 310-6789 or toll-free at 1-800-784-2433, to receive an immediate response, available 24/7.

If you are writing about COVID-19, please refer to the information below for some immediate information and reference tools:

* If you or a family member believes they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool. If the tool advises you are demonstrating relevant symptoms, please call 811 to speak with a healthcare professional: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>

* For answers to common questions about COVID-19, please consult HealthLinkBC and the BC Centre for Disease Control at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19> and <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

* For non-medical information about the virus, including the latest information on travel recommendations and physical distancing, as well as access to support and services from the provincial and federal governments, please call the toll-free phone line (open 7:30 am to 8:00 pm, seven days a week): 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).

* For more detailed information regarding the COVID-19 vaccination rollout plan, please refer to the following News Release: B.C. takes next steps to protect people with COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan<https://archive.news.gov.bc.ca/releases/news_releases_2020-2024/2021PREM0005-000119.htm>.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dix

Minister of Health



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A.
Attorney General and Minister
responsible for Housing
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

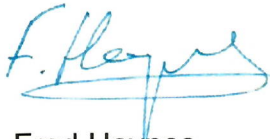
- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full considerations of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use."*

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On behalf of Saanich Council, we ask for your help in addressing this serious health crisis.

A copy of the report, excerpt of the January 25 meeting minutes and copy of previous correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated October 5, 2020 are enclosed for further information.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, AG AG:EX <AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Your Email has been received

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for your email.

This automated response is to confirm that your email has been received.

If you have made inquiries that fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Attorney General and Housing, your email will be reviewed for consideration.

In the event that your inquiry is the responsibility of another area of government, we will refer your email appropriately for review and consideration.

I appreciate that you have taken the time to write.

Sincerely,

David Eby, QC
Attorney General and Minister responsible for Housing



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: Fin.Minister@gov.bc.ca

January 28, 2021

The Honourable Selina Robinson, M.L.A.
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

On January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

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Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

c: Saanich Council
Paul ThorkeIsson, District of Saanich, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, FIN FIN:EX <FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Thank you for your email

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for taking the time to write. Due to the volume of incoming messages, this is an automated response to let you know that my office has received your email.

For further information on the Ministry of Finance, we invite you to visit www.gov.bc.ca/fin, or for information regarding other government initiatives, please visit www.gov.bc.ca<<http://www.gov.bc.ca>>.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Via email: crdchair@crd.bc.ca

February 1, 2021

Capital Regional District Board
c/o Colin Plant, Chair
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Chair Plant and the Capital Regional District Board,

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

I would like to draw to your attention that on January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and endorsed motions in support of addressing the overdose crisis, including to encourage the Capital Regional District Board to take similar action.

Saanich Council endorsed the following motions:

"That Council:

- *Direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and to explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to Council with options;*
- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency;*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical*

alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;


- *publicly voice its support to decriminalize simple drug possession; and*
- *share the report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action.”*

A copy of the report dated January 11, an excerpt of the January 25 meeting minutes and a reply received on January 28, 2021, from the Director General, Controlled Substances Directorate, Health Canada office in response to previous correspondence of October 5, 2020, are attached for further information.

Today we see lives continuing to be lost in record-breaking numbers due to the overdose crisis. British Columbia has suffered a record breaking year for lost lives due to a toxic illicit drug supply. New approaches and additional actions are needed to address this crisis.

We hope that together our continued advocacy will aid in bringing the needed resources forward.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor of Saanich

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: CRD Chair <crdchair@crd.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Carolyn Jenkinson; Dawn Sheppard
Subject: (External Email) Re: Ltr to CRD Board - Opioid Crisis - January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Resolutions in Support of Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Received with thanks. I will ask staff to put on CRD Correspondence Portal.

Colin Plant
Teacher/Saanich Councillor/CRD Board Chair
250-514-1439

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

On Feb 1, 2021, at 2:05 PM, Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca> wrote:

Good Afternoon Chair Plant,

Please find attached to this email correspondence to the CRD Board from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

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The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email

February 2, 2021

Mayors and Councils of British Columbia

Dear Mayors and Councils,

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

I would like to draw to your attention that on January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council on the overdose crisis and resolved as follows:

"That Council:

- *Direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and to explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to Council with options;*
- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency;*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;*
- *publicly voice its support to decriminalize simple drug possession; and*
- *share the report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action."*

A copy of the [report dated January 11](#) and an excerpt of the [January 25 meeting minutes](#) are attached for further information.

These requests build upon the advocacy work presented by our resolutions indicated in the [council report](#) presented on September 14, 2020. [Here](#) you can find the recent reply received from the Director General, Controlled Substances Directorate of Health Canada on January 28.

Today we see lives continuing to be lost in record-breaking numbers due to the overdose crisis. British Columbia has suffered a record breaking year for lost lives due to a toxic illicit drug supply. New approaches and additional actions are needed to address this crisis.

We hope that together our continued advocacy will aid in bringing the needed resources forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes", with a horizontal line underneath.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: mayor@victoria.ca

February 1, 2021

Mayor & Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps & Council:

Re: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

I would like to draw to your attention that on January 25, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and endorsed motions in support of addressing the overdose crisis, including to encourage other municipal councils to take similar action.

Saanich Council endorsed the following motions:

"That Council:

- *Direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and to explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to Council with options;*
- *request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency;*
- *reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal*

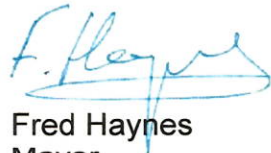
regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;

- *publicly voice its support to decriminalize simple drug possession; and*
- *share the report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action.”*

Your office will recall from previous correspondence, these additional requests build upon the advocacy work presented by our resolutions of September 14, 2020. Today we see lives continuing to be lost in record-breaking numbers due to the overdose crisis. British Columbia has suffered a record breaking year for lost lives due to a toxic illicit drug supply. New approaches and additional actions are needed to address this crisis. Hopefully our combined actions will aid in slowing the crisis and enable us to safeguard the health and prosperity of our citizens.

A copy of the report dated January 11, an excerpt of the January 25, 2021 meeting minutes and our previous correspondence of October 5, 2020, are attached for further information.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, District of Saanich, CAO

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Mayor Kevin Murdoch <mayor@oakbay.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Mayor
Subject: (External Email) RE: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you Ms. Mattiuz, received.

Kevin Murdoch
Mayor, District of Oak Bay
mayor@oakbay.ca
(250) 598-3311

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 2, 2021 9:32 AM
Cc: Colin Plant <Colin.Plant@saanich.ca>; Judy Brownoff <Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca>; Karen Harper <Karen.Harper@saanich.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Nathalie Chambers <Nathalie.Chambers@saanich.ca>; Ned Taylor <Ned.Taylor@saanich.ca>; Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca>; Susan Brice <Susan.Brice@saanich.ca>; Zac De Vries <Zac.DeVries@saanich.ca>
Subject: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting

Good Morning,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the motion passed at the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting:

(Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis)

“That Council share this report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action.”

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Nancy Friesen <NFriesen@abbotsford.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Katie Karn; Michelle Harding
Subject: (External Email) Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting
Attachments: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - LtrtoBCMayors_Councils_02.02.2021.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Good afternoon Rachel,

Thank you for your email of February 2nd with the attached email correspondence. This is to confirm receipt, and the email correspondence will be placed on the February 8, 2021 City of Abbotsford Regular Agenda of Council as correspondence received

With kind regards,

Nancy

Nancy Friesen

Executive Assistant to Mayor
Tel: 604.864.5500 Fax: 604.853.1934
Email: nfriesen@abbotsford.ca



32315 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W7
www.abbotsford.ca

PLEASE NOTE: City Hall is open for in-person appointments only. To contact the City of Abbotsford during regular business hours, please call us at 604-853-2281 or use our online services at www.abbotsford.ca. For up to date information on what is re-opening, visit www.abbotsford.ca/reopening. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding as we work to keep everybody healthy and safe.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:32 AM
Cc: Colin Plant <Colin.Plant@saanich.ca>; Judy Brownoff <Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca>; Karen Harper <Karen.Harper@saanich.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Nathalie Chambers <Nathalie.Chambers@saanich.ca>; Ned Taylor <Ned.Taylor@saanich.ca>; Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca>; Susan Brice <Susan.Brice@saanich.ca>; Zac De Vries <Zac.DeVries@saanich.ca>
Subject: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Mayor <Mayor@vernon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 11:45 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Mayor; Maria Doyle
Subject: RE: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting

Good day Rachel

Thank you. Please be advised that we have added this item to our next meeting of Council for their information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Doyle

Sr. Executive Assistant to Mayor & Chief Administrative Officer
Office: 250.550.3572 | www.vernon.ca



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From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 9:32 AM
Cc: Colin Plant <Colin.Plant@saanich.ca>; Judy Brownoff <Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca>; Karen Harper <Karen.Harper@saanich.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Nathalie Chambers <Nathalie.Chambers@saanich.ca>; Ned Taylor <Ned.Taylor@saanich.ca>; Rebecca Mersereau <Rebecca.Mersereau@saanich.ca>; Susan Brice <Susan.Brice@saanich.ca>; Zac De Vries <Zac.DeVries@saanich.ca>
Subject: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis - Resolution from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting

*****Use Caution - External Email*****

Good Morning,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the motion passed at the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting:

(Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis)

"That Council share this report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action."

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Danielle St. Jacques <dstjacques@victoria.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Colleen Mycroft; Councillors
Subject: (External Email) FW: Ltr to Victoria Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis
Attachments: Actions to Address the Opioid Crisis - LtrtoRegionalMayors-Victoria-02.01.2021.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Thank you Rachel. I can confirm receipt and have forwarded on to Councillors too.

Kindly,
Danielle

Danielle St. Jacques
Executive Coordinator
Mayor's Office
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square, Victoria BC V8W 1P6
T 250.361.0597 F 250.361.0248



From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor) <LHelps@victoria.ca>
Cc: Danielle St. Jacques <dstjacques@victoria.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Victoria Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Liz Condon <LCondon@highlands.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: Ltr to Highlands Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Yes received :)

Liz Condon

Administrative Assistant
District of Highlands
1980 Millstream Road

P: 250-474-1773 | F: 250-474-3677 | Web: www.highlands.ca



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From: Rachel Mattiuz [mailto:Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca]
Sent: February 1, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Ken Williams
Cc: Liz Condon; Mayor; Paul Thorkelsson
Subject: Ltr to Highlands Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Julie Coneybeer <jconeybeer@langford.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz; Mayor Young
Cc: Mayor; Paul Thorkelsson
Subject: (External Email) RE: Ltr to Langford Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hi Rachel, this is to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council and to confirm that it has been circulated to Langford Council. Thank you

Julie Coneybeer

Executive Assistant
250.478.7882

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Mayor Young <mayor@langford.ca>
Cc: Julie Coneybeer <jconeybeer@langford.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Langford Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.
Victoria BC V8X 2W7

t. [250-475-5510](tel:250-475-5510)
f. [250-475-5440](tel:250-475-5440)
rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca
www.saanich.ca

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Rachel Mattiuz

From: Nora Brooks <nbrooks@colwood.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: RE: Ltr to Colwood Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Morning Rachel,
Thank you for your email. This email is to acknowledge receipt.
Have a wonderful day,

Nora A. Brooks

Nora A. Brooks
Executive Assistant to Mayor and CAO
Administration Department | City of Colwood
250-294-8144 Phone | 250-507-1861 Cell
nbrooks@colwood.ca | www.colwood.ca



Follow @CityofColwood on [facebook](#), [twitter](#) and [instagram](#)!

Please use our online [Action Request](#) form to report issues on Colwood roads and throughout our community. Your information will go directly into our tracking system for follow up so we can provide more information, take appropriate action and better understand your needs and expectations.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 1, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Rob Martin <mayor@colwood.ca>
Cc: Nora Brooks <nbrooks@colwood.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Colwood Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Use Caution!

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Christine Diel <CDiel@oakbay.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 8:19 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: Ltr to Oak Bay Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Good morning Rachel,

This is to confirm receipt of the letter to Oak Bay Mayor and Council.

Kind regards,
Christine

Christine Diel
Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer
250-598-3311 ext 7429
cdiel@oakbay.ca



This communication is privileged and may contain confidential information intended only for the person(s) named above. Any other distribution, copying, printing, forwarding or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it and notify me immediately by telephone or email. Thank you.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Mayor Kevin Murdoch <mayor@oakbay.ca>
Cc: Christine Diel <CDiel@oakbay.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Oak Bay Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Paula Kully <pkully@sidney.ca>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz; Cliff McNeil-Smith
Cc: Mayor; Paul Thorkelsson
Subject: (External Email) RE: Ltr to Sidney Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you Rachel. I am confirming receipt.

Paula Kully, Executive Assistant / Communications Coordinator
Town of Sidney | 2440 Sidney Ave. Sidney, BC V8L 1Y7
SET, TINES – WSÁNEĆ Territory
250-656-1139 | pkully@sidney.ca | www.sidney.ca



From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February-01-21 3:56 PM
To: Cliff McNeil-Smith <CMcNeil-Smith@sidney.ca>
Cc: Paula Kully <pkully@sidney.ca>; Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>; Paul Thorkelsson <Paul.Thorkelsson@saanich.ca>
Subject: Ltr to Sidney Mayor & Council - Resolutions from January 25, 2021 Saanich Council Meeting - Support in addressing the opioid crisis

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council, resulting from the January 25, 2021 Saanich Council meeting.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email. If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Ave.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Notice of Motion

To: Mayor and Council
From: Councillor Ned Taylor, Councillor Karen Harper
Date: January 11, 2021
Subject: Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

JAN 17

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to council with options.
2. That Council request the Government of Canada to declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency.
3. That Council reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use.
4. That Council publicly voice its support for the Vancouver's efforts to decriminalize simple drug possession.
5. That Council share this report with all other municipal councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action.

BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council passed a motion advocating to senior levels of government for actions to address the overdose crisis. The motion read as follows:

"That Council write to the Offices of the Prime Minister, the Premier, and the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Finance, Health, Mental Health and Addictions and Municipal Affairs and Housing, requesting they commit to providing adequate funding, new policy frameworks and legislative changes to effectively and holistically address the opioid crisis, mental health issues and their connections to homelessness in the municipalities in British Columbia and Canada

and this approach include the decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use and the provision of a safe supply of opioids."

Lives continue to be lost at record-breaking numbers due to the overdose crisis. Therefore, it is critical that Saanich Council continues to advocate to senior levels of government for actions needed to address this crisis, and explore potential actions that we could take as a municipality to help.

On Dec 21, 2020, the BC Coroner Services reported that "There have been 1,548 illicit drug deaths to date in 2020 in B.C., and the number of deaths in each health authority is at or near the highest ever monthly totals." Furthermore, the BC Coroner Services reports "153 suspected drug toxicity deaths in November 2020, an 89% increase over November 2019 (81)". BC's Chief Coroner, Lisa Lapointe, stated "Tragically, as we reach the end of 2020, our province is facing a record-breaking year for lives lost due to a toxic illicit drug supply." The Chief Coroner also speaks to the significant impacts that COVID-19 has had for those experiencing problematic substance use. She states specifically that "Ensuring access to critical harm reduction measures including naloxone, supervised consumption sites, overdose prevention sites and drug checking services are essential if we want to prevent future deaths." This full press release from the BC Coroner Services is attached to this report as Appendix A.

The recommendations in this report are actions that Saanich can take to address the overdose crisis, along with additional advocacy initiatives. These recommendations were developed with input and feedback from numerous experts and non-profit organizations in the Capital Region that are currently addressing the overdose crisis.

Safe consumption sites

Safe consumption sites are an effective measure to reduce overdoses and other harms associated with substance use.

The Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR) Co/Lab Team recently released a bulletin (attached as Appendix B) for the purpose of sharing evidence supporting critical substance use services and supports, including treatment and harm reduction programs that meet the needs of people who use drugs. They find that "Supervised consumption sites are being implemented across Canada as one public health measure to reduce the harms associated with substance use, including overdoses and infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C (HCV). However, politically motivated attacks on supervised consumption sites have made it difficult for some policy makers and service providers to support this evidence-based public health intervention." Further, they find that "A wealth of evidence suggests that supervised consumption sites do reduce overdoses and other substance use harms, connect people with other health services, and reduce unsafe drug use practices."

It is clear, based on the evidence available, that safe consumption sites are an effective way to reduce overdoses and other harms associated with substance use. Through land use, the District of Saanich could potentially play a supporting role in implementing safe consumption sites as one measure to address the overdose crisis. Recommendation #1 in this report seeks to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations, who are addressing the overdose crisis, to explore whether Saanich could help support new safe consumption sites, and whether there are any other ways that Saanich and local governments can help address the overdose crisis.

Further advocacy

Saanich Council, as noted earlier in this report, has advocated to senior levels of government on actions to address the overdose crisis. It is important to continue this advocacy to senior levels of government, considering the urgency of this crisis.

Recommendations #2 and #3 have been originally developed by Moms Stop The Harm (MSTH), which is a network of Canadian families impacted by substance-use related harms and deaths. MSTH advocates for changes to failed drug policies and also provides peer support to grieving families and those with loved ones who use or have used substances. In November, MSTH wrote to municipalities and asked them to pass a resolution (similar to recommendations #2 and #3 of this report). Their letter, and original resolution, is attached to this report as Appendices C and D.

The City of Vancouver

In November, 2020, Vancouver City Council unanimously voted in favour of a motion, which seeks to decriminalize small amounts of illegal drugs (See Appendix E). In September, 2020, Saanich Council publicly requested senior levels of government to decriminalize controlled substances to address the overdose crisis.

It is important to continue to build support for these much needed initiatives. Recommendation #4 in this report seeks to publicly express support for the City of Vancouver's efforts to decriminalize small amounts of illegal drugs.

Other municipalities

We know that when we stand together with other municipalities and regional districts, our voice and our requests to senior levels of government can be strengthened. Recommendation #6 of this report seeks to share this report and its recommendations with all other local governments in British Columbia, and to directly request that the CRD Board and municipalities within the CRD take similar action.

CONCLUSION

The overdose crisis continues to be an urgent crisis affecting people throughout the South Island, British Columbia, and Canada. In fact, well over 1,500 people have died in BC in 2020 as a result, a number that is substantially higher than deaths due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

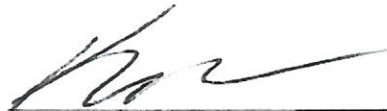
It is clear that new approaches and additional actions are needed to adequately address this crisis. The recommendations in this report are actions that Saanich can take to help, and have been developed in consultation with numerous non-profit organizations directly addressing the crisis, and experts with specific knowledge on these matters.

We ask that Council support the recommendations in this report, and continue to look for ways that we can help. This is a serious crisis that needs action now.

Respectfully submitted by:



Ned Taylor
Councillor



Karen Harper
Councillor

Attachments

Appendix A: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/news/2020/illicit-drug_news_release.pdf

Appendix B: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb1a664ccf4c7037e8c1d72/t/5f629f75f778751e69eba58f/1600298872589/Bulletin+Safe+Consumption+Sites.pdf>

Appendix C: MSTH Letter

Appendix D: MSTH Resolution

Appendix E: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/drug-decriminalization-unanimously-endorsed-by-vancouver-city-council-1.5205625>

J. Soule, Victoria area

Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

- There is a public health crisis; safe injection sites have the potential to save lives and could offer mental health services and social supports.
- Safe injection sites protect the community from unsafe drug usage.

J. Mahoney, Hartland Avenue

Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

- Safe injection sites are necessary and are a vital part of harm reduction and recovery; over 50% of overdoses occur in private residences.
- It is a matter of saving lives.

C. Antrobus, Cordova Bay Road

Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis

- The overdose crisis is a provincial problem; safe injection sites saves lives.

1410-01
Council
Proceedings

The Manager, Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk advised that public input as presented by a memo dated January 25, 2021 noted all correspondence received before noon on January 25, 2021 and forms part of the public record.

MOVED by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Harper: "That Council receive for information the correspondence for the Special Council meeting of January 25, 2021 addressing:

- **Actions to Address the Overdose Crisis; and**
- **86 Crease Avenue – Rezoning and Development Variance Permit Application."**

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

2170-50
Overdose Crisis

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE OVERDOSE CRISIS

Report of Councillor Taylor and Councillor Harper dated January 11, 2021.

MOVED by Councillor Taylor and Seconded by Councillor Harper: "That Council:

- 1. Direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and to explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to Council with options;**
- 2. Request the Government of Canada declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency;**
- 3. Reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;**

4. Publicly voice its support for the City of Vancouver's efforts to decriminalize simple drug possession; and
5. Share the report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action."

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- More advocacy to senior levels of government to address the overdose crisis is needed.
- People from all walks of life are dying from overdoses on a daily basis.
- Safe consumption sites are an effective way to reduce overdoses and save lives.
- All levels of government should consider decriminalization of drugs for personal use; public safety and public health authorities are calling for decriminalization.
- We are in two public health emergencies – the Pandemic and the Opioid Crisis.
- There are economic benefits through fewer hospital and first responder costs, fewer economic losses due to lost time at work and lower costs to the court and prison systems.
- Saanich has a role to play in advocating and communicating to the community.
- Island Health Authority has advised that they are interested in having discussions with Saanich with respect to mitigating harm.
- It may be appropriate to forward the motion to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) as a late resolution.
- The report builds upon the earlier work of Council.

MOVED by Councillor de Vries and Seconded by Councillor Plant: "That the motion be amended that point #4 read: "publicly voice its support to decriminalize simple drug possession"."

The Amendment was then Put and CARRIED

The Main Motion, as Amended, was then Put and CARRIED

The Main Motion, as Amended:

"That Council:

1. Direct staff to engage in discussions with local health agencies and non-profit organizations addressing the overdose crisis to discuss whether Saanich could support safe consumption sites and to explore further potential actions Saanich/local governments could take to help, and to report back to Council with options;
2. Request the Government of Canada declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency;
3. Reaffirm its earlier requests to senior governments on the overdose crisis and further request that the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by the crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive Pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly

- reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;
4. Publicly voice its support to decriminalize simple drug possession; and
 5. Share the report with all other municipal Councils in the Province of British Columbia, and write to all other municipal Councils in the Capital Region, and the Capital Regional District Board, requesting that they take similar action."

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

2870-30
Crease Avenue

86 CREASE AVENUE – REZONING AND DEVELOPMENT VARIANCE PERMIT APPLICATION

Supplemental report of the Director of Planning dated January 7, 2021. To rezone from the RS-6 (Single Family Dwelling) Zone to a site specific zone to permit two single family dwellings on one lot.

The Director of Planning noted that there is a typographical error on page 5 of the report under Option 1 and Option 2; the covenant to secure the size of the new building and its footprint has not been captured.

The Director of Engineering stated:

- Servicing requirements for items such as road widening for curb and gutter and drainage improvements, stormwater connection and onsite stormwater requirement are typical for rezoning applications.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Planning stated:

- Garden suites were not permitted when the original application was submitted; the proposal is outside the scope of the Garden Suite regulations therefore a site specific zone is recommended.
- Staff are collecting comments with respect to the Garden Suite regulations and will report back to Council after one year.
- Setting precedence is not an issue as each application is considered on its own merits.
- The house on Lot A could have a gross floor area of up to 1905.1 square feet.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Engineering stated:

- A stormwater connection is the only engineering servicing requirement for a Garden Suite.
- If Council wished to consider Option 2 at a Public Hearing, a Development Variance Permit to include variances for the total number of parking spaces, servicing levels for development, road improvements and onsite stormwater retention and treatment would be prepared.
- The cost estimates for the servicing requirements are unknown.

MOVED by Councillor Harper and Seconded by Councillor Chambers:
"That a Public Hearing be called to further consider the rezoning application and the additional engineering variances as outlined in Option 2 in the supplemental report of the Director of Planning and the Director of Engineering dated January 2, 2021 on Lot 8, Block 7, Section 24, Victoria District, Plan 877 (86 Crease Avenue)."