



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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: pm@pm.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Saanich greatly appreciates the support the Federal government has shown in ebbing the opioid drug crisis by providing \$2M for a safer supply pilot project in Island Health.

On September 16, British Columbia announced the provision of expansion of access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. New policy frameworks will allow access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services.

On behalf of Saanich Council, please consider this request to slow the opioid public health emergency through providing further funding, new policy frameworks, and legislative changes outlined above, including decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the draft meeting minutes are enclosed for reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Haynes

Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

**VIA EMAIL: premier@gov.bc.ca
john.horgan.MLA@leg.bc.ca**

Dear Premier:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Following this action on our part, the very next day we saw the Province already taking on additional actions to address the opioid crisis. On behalf of Saanich Council, thank you for championing the fight against the opioid drug crisis through access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. The new policy frameworks allowing access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services are greatly appreciated.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Saanich greatly appreciates the support the Federal government has shown in ebbing the opioid drug crisis by providing \$2M for a safer supply pilot project in Island Health.

On September 16, British Columbia announced the provision of expansion of access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. New policy frameworks will allow access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services.

On behalf of Saanich Council, please consider this request to slow the opioid public health emergency through providing further funding, new policy frameworks, and legislative changes outlined above, including decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the draft meeting minutes are enclosed for reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Haynes", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkeleson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Following this action on our part, the very next day we saw the Province already taking on additional actions to address the opioid crisis. On behalf of Saanich Council, thank you for championing the fight against the opioid drug crisis through access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. The new policy frameworks allowing access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services are greatly appreciated.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Haynes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Haynes
Mayor
Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Saanich greatly appreciates the support the Federal government has shown in ebbing the opioid drug crisis by providing \$2M for a safer supply pilot project in Island Health.

On September 16, British Columbia announced the provision of expansion of access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. New policy frameworks will allow access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services.

On behalf of Saanich Council, please consider this request to slow the opioid public health emergency through providing further funding, new policy frameworks, and legislative changes outlined above, including decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the draft meeting minutes are enclosed for reference.

Sincerely,

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

Fred Haynes
Mayor
Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Following this action on our part, the very next day we saw the Province already taking on additional actions to address the opioid crisis. On behalf of Saanich Council, thank you for championing the fight against the opioid drug crisis through access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. The new policy frameworks allowing access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services are greatly appreciated.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Haynes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL: MH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Following this action on our part, the very next day we saw the Province already taking on additional actions to address the opioid crisis. On behalf of Saanich Council, thank you for championing the fight against the opioid drug crisis through access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. The new policy frameworks allowing access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services are greatly appreciated.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,


Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, 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

October 5, 2020

The Honourable Selina Robinson, M.L.A.
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
PO Box 9056f Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

VIA EMAIL: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

Re: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

On September 14, 2020, Saanich Council considered a Report to Council from Mayor Haynes and resolved 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"

Following this action on our part, the very next day we saw the Province already taking on additional actions to address the opioid crisis. On behalf of Saanich Council, thank you for championing the fight against the opioid drug crisis through access to safer prescription alternatives to the toxic drug supply. The new policy frameworks allowing access to substance-use services, including harm reduction, treatment, counselling and mental health supports and recovery-oriented services are greatly appreciated.

A copy of the report and excerpt of the meeting minutes are attached for reference.

Sincerely,



Fred Haynes
Mayor

Enclosures

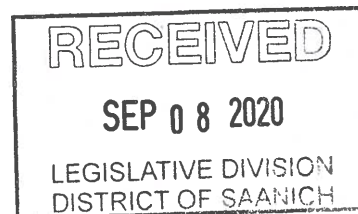
cc: Saanich Council
Paul Thorkelsson, CAO



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Saanich Council
From: Mayor Fred Haynes
Date: September 4, 2020
Subject: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses



RECOMMENDATION

1. 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 of British Columbia and Canada; and that Council request that this approach include the decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use and the provision of a safe supply of opioids.
2. That Council direct staff to forward this report to our regional Mayors, the Capital Regional District and the British Columbia Urban Mayors' Caucus, requesting their support.

BACKGROUND:

Saanich residents, Council and our staff are aware of the damaging impacts of the opioid crisis across the region and British Columbia. Unintentional drug overdoses are presenting a major public health crisis. British Columbia's chief coroner, Lisa Lapointe, reports 175 people died of drug overdoses in July, following the record death toll of 177 reached in June.

On Monday August 31, 2020, the International Overdose Awareness Day was marked by an online candlelit vigil. Over 5,560 British Columbians, made up of family, neighbours, colleagues and friends, have passed away since 2016. Paramedics responded to 2,706 non-fatal overdoses just in July, a record high.

Recently Canada's police chiefs called for decriminalization of personal possession of controlled substances for personal use as a way to address substance abuse, addiction and these tragic deaths. They also proposed increasing access to health care, treatment and social services to help guide people away from the criminal justice system.

Our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has long called for the decriminalization of controlled substances for personal use. These calls are echoed by Moms Stop the Harm, a Canada-wide advocacy group pushing for more effective harm-reduction strategies, including the decriminalization and safe supply of drugs.

Government and health care experts report that at the centre of the current epidemic of overdose death is the replacement of diverted pharmaceutical pills and imported heroin with extremely potent synthetic opioids, primarily in the forms of Fentanyl and Carfentanil. Overlaid on top of this, the COVID-19 pandemic adds its turmoil to those using illicit drugs. Important in-person services have shifted online. The resulting isolation has caused more people to use in isolation, exacerbating overdose deaths. In March, the Government of British Columbia announced a program to enable a safe supply of opioids. This program is recognized to be saving lives by reducing overdose deaths from toxic street drugs.

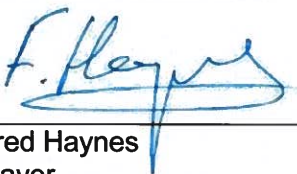
The Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions of British Columbia, acknowledged that after years of underfunding, the gaps in the system are enormous. Recently in a well-regarded action, the Government of British Columbia announced \$13.5 million for 50 to 70 new addiction-treatment beds for adults and \$36 million for 123 new beds for youth. Providing this funding through the Canadian Mental Health Association, Minister Darcy recognized that adding addiction treatment beds is just one part of the continuum of care.

Opioid addiction, overdose deaths and mental health need to be treated holistically. Minister Darcy noted the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions has been providing more and better training for people in emergency rooms to deal with both mental health and addictions issues, especially in the case of overdoses. "We have been working to try and connect those people, not just have them discharged but have them connected to services in the community."

In Saanich our Police Department participates in and supports the Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (IMCRT) made up of Island Health nurses, counselors, child and youth mental health clinicians and police officers from Saanich and Victoria. The team responds to people in psychiatric or situational crisis providing consultation, mobile crisis response and assessment and short-term follow-up and referral services as needed. While the IMCRT operates seven days/week its hours are limited to 1pm until midnight which restricts the team's ability to address mental health incidents that occur outside those hours. This results in front line police dealing with all *Mental Health Act* calls when IMCRT is unavailable. There is also a regional Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. Made up of mental-health nurses, police, parole officers and social workers, this team helps connect vulnerable people with longer term support services.

These holistic models have proven their effectiveness, however in each case, there is only one team so it cannot respond to all those with mental health or addiction issues who could benefit from these supports. Funding resources to provide additional mental health nurses, social workers, expanded community support, more teams and 24/7 supports are needed.

Mental health, addictions, opioid overdoses and overdose deaths are intimately connected with the issues of homelessness across our region. These massive societal problems are collectively outside both the capacity and the scope of municipalities. They need to be addressed by appropriate funding and commitments to new policy and legal frameworks from the Federal and Provincial governments.



Fred Haynes
Mayor
Chair, Saanich Police Board

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- There is a heightened need for creative ways to provide residents with outdoor places to socialize.
- These will be helpful to those residents who do not have access to yards.
- The size of the structures may need to be quite big to safely social distance.
- Shade and shelter is needed in summer and winter.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services stated:

- Options will consider physical distancing requirements and include different structure types including temporary and permanent structures.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That the motion be amended to change the words “asking them to create” to “asking them to consider creating”.”

The Amendment was CARRIED

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

Main Motion, as Amended:

“That:

- 1. Council endorse the report.**
- 2. Council direct staff to report back on the options and costs for the construction of permanent and/or temporary outdoor structures that will help support a diversity of activities in our parks during the adverse weather to come.**
- 3. Council advise staff that parks in proximity to higher concentrations of multifamily residences should be prioritized.**
- 4. The Mayor write on behalf of Council to the owners and managers of shopping malls and shopping centres in Saanich asking them to consider creating temporary and/or permanent sheltered space for people to socialize and play.”**

1410-04

Report - Council

OPIOID DRUG CRISIS AND OVERDOSES

Report of the Mayor dated September 4, 2020 recommending that Council:

1. 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; and
2. Direct staff to forward this report to our regional Mayors, the Capital Regional District and the British Columbia Urban Mayors’ Caucus requesting their support.

MOVED by Councillor de Vries and Seconded by Councillor Harper: “That Council:

- 1. 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; and**
- 2. Direct staff to forward this report to our regional Mayors, the Capital Regional District and the British Columbia Urban Mayors’ Caucus requesting their support.”**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Funding is beyond the capacity and outside the mandate of local governments.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS

2860-20
Tillicum Road

UPDATE ON SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE CONSTRUCTION

Report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Director of Planning dated August 19, 2020 recommending that Council receive for information the report regarding the construction of the Saanich Neighbourhood Place daycare at 3100 Tillicum Road.

MOVED by Councillor Mersereau and Seconded by Councillor Plant: “That Council receive for information the report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and the Director of Planning dated August 19, 2020 regarding the construction of the Saanich Neighbourhood Place daycare at 3100 Tillicum Road.”

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- Improved oversight with municipal-owned properties is appropriate.

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

- The proposed Biodiversity Strategy could address protection of parkland.
- The separate leased lot was a requirement of financing.
- The Resilient Saanich process could consider sensitive ecosystems mapping.
- An application for amendments, which will come forward to Council, has been received from Saanich Neighbourhood Place.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services stated:

- Parks assets could be captured in the update to the Urban Forest Strategy.
- The current bylaw protects all municipal trees; the bylaw when the Development Permit came forward was different.

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Prime Minister/Premier Ministre <PM@pm.gc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 1:37 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Cc: Patricia A. Hajdu, P.C.,M.P.
Subject: (External Email) Office of the Prime Minister / Cabinet du Premier ministre
Attachments: 10_05_2020-LtrtoPM-Trudeau-OpioidCrisis.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.

Dear Mayor Haynes:

On behalf of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence with which you attached a report of the Corporation of the District of Saanich regarding Canada's opioid crisis.

You may be assured that your comments have been carefully reviewed. As you may know, at the federal level, matters relating to public health fall within the portfolio of the Honourable Patricia A. Hajdu, Minister of Health. I have therefore taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your email and attachment to Minister Hajdu for her information and consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

M. Bredeson
Executive Correspondence Officer
for the Prime Minister's Office
Agent de correspondance
de la haute direction pour le Cabinet du Premier ministre

>>> From : Rachel Mattiuz Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca Received : 08 Oct 2020 04:58:58 PM >>>

>>> Subject : Correspondence from Mayor Haynes - September 14, 2020 Council Meeting >>>>

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes sent on behalf of Saanich Council.

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:2504755555>

f. 250-475-5440 <tel:2504755440>

rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca <mailto:rachel.mattiuz@saanich.ca>

www.saanich.ca <http://www.saanich.ca/>

This e-mail and any attachments are for the sole use of the intended recipient and must not be distributed or disclosed to anyone else. The content of this e-mail and any attachments may be confidential, privileged and/or subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have received this message in error, please delete it and contact the sender.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Rachel Mattiuz

From: ministresc, Minister / Ministre hcminister (HC/SC) <hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: Correspondence from Mayor Haynes - Saanich Council Meeting of September 14, 2020

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

On behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, thank you for taking the time to write.

Please be assured that your correspondence is being carefully reviewed.

The Minister greatly appreciates receiving the views of Canadians on matters that are important to them.

Again, thank you for writing.

Executive Correspondence Division

Au nom de l'honorable Patty Hajdu, ministre de la Santé, merci d'avoir pris le temps d'écrire.

Sachez que votre correspondance sera examinée attentivement.

La ministre est très sensible aux points de vue des Canadiennes et des Canadiens sur les questions qui leur tiennent à cœur.

Encore une fois, merci d'avoir écrit.

Division de la correspondance de la haute gestion

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, MAH MAH:EX <MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 2:13 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: Correspondence from Mayor Haynes - September 14, 2020 Saanich Council Meeting

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 to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
As a provincial election has been called, your correspondence has been shared with ministry staff for attention, and a direct response as appropriate.
Thank you again for writing.
Sincerely,
Office of the Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, MMHA MMHA:EX <MMHA.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: Correspondence from Mayor Haynes - September 14, 2020 Council Meeting

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 (604) 775-2101 or by email at judy.darcy.mla@leg.bc.ca <<mailto:judy.darcy.mla@leg.bc.ca>>

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

Sincerely,

Hon. Judy Darcy
Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Harris, Natasha (HC/SC) <natasha.harris@canada.ca> on behalf of CSD DGO / BDG DSC (HC/SC) <hc.csddgo-bdgdsc.sc@canada.ca>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: Opioid Drug Crisis and Overdoses

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 correspondence dated October 22, 2020, addressed to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister Patty Hajdu, and other federal and provincial leaders concerning the federal government's response to the overdose crisis. I also wish to acknowledge the previous correspondence received from Mayor Fred Haynes on October 5, 2020. We have carefully reviewed the report from the District of Saanich dated September 4, 2020, as well as the excerpt of Special Council meeting minutes from September 14, 2020. I have been asked to respond to you directly. I sincerely apologize for the delay in responding.

Thank you for sharing your concerns and recommendations with us. Our approach to substance use issues has been comprehensive and collaborative, guided by our federal drug strategy – the Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS). The CDSS takes a public health-focused approach, and lays out our framework for evidence-based actions to reduce the harms associated with substance use in Canada. It includes four key pillars – prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and enforcement.

Since 2016, the Government of Canada has taken urgent action to address the opioid overdose crisis through significant investments of over \$600 million as well as legislative and regulatory action. This includes working with provinces and territories to improve access to harm reduction services such as supervised consumption sites, increase access to pharmaceutical-grade medications, raise awareness of the risks of opioids, and remove barriers to treatment, including [stigma](#). Recently, we have provided an additional \$66 million over two years, starting in 2020-21, to support community-based organizations responding to substance use issues, including to help them provide frontline services in a COVID-19 context.

In addition, through Health Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program, the Government of Canada is supporting 11 projects in providing a flexible safer supply of pharmaceutical-grade medications for people with opioid use disorder in British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick. These investments will help provide pathways to care and treatment. Findings from these initiatives will contribute to the evidence base to support the scaling up of effective models. Examples of funded projects include:

- South Riverdale Community Health Centre and Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (Toronto, Ontario) were provided approximately \$1.6M to help people access pharmaceutical-grade medications and increase engagement with health care and social services to foster better health outcomes.

- The London InterCommunity Health Centre (London, Ontario) was provided more than \$6.5 million to deliver a safer supply program that will help reduce harms related to the toxic illegal drug supply by providing prescribed opioids to patients with opioid use disorder during the pandemic and beyond.
- The Vancouver Island Health Authority was provided approximately \$2 million for an innovative project that will provide pharmaceutical-grade medication as an alternative to the toxic illegal drug supply for people in Cowichan Valley who have not responded to other forms of treatment for opioid use disorder.

On August 24, 2020, the Minister of Health sent a letter to Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health and regulatory colleges to encourage them all to provide people who use drugs with a full spectrum of care options, including access to a safer supply of drugs. You can read the letter here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/minister-letter-treatment-safer-supply.html>.

The Government of Canada will also continue to encourage the formation of partnerships between law enforcement and health and social services to help divert people who use drugs away from the criminal justice system and towards appropriate health services and social supports. For example, in May 2017, the Government of Canada introduced the *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act*. The Act provides some legal protection for individuals who seek emergency help during an overdose. In addition, Health Canada has provided three-year funding for a project in Peterborough, Ontario, to develop a multi-sector response, with a team dedicated to caring for people at risk of experiencing overdoses, in order to direct people away from the justice system and into care. On August 18, 2020, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada issued guidance to prosecutors directing that alternatives to prosecution should be considered for simple possession offences, except when there are serious mitigating circumstances. This policy is available at <https://www.ppsc-sppc.gc.ca/eng/pub/fpsd-sfpg/fps-sfp/tpd/p5/ch13.html>.

The Government of Canada is further supporting those who are most vulnerable during this pandemic by investing \$500 million towards health care, including support for Canadians experiencing challenges with substance use, mental health, or homelessness. This investment is part of the more than \$19 billion invested through the [Safe Restart Agreement](#) to help provinces and territories safely restart their economies and ensure Canadians have the support they need in these challenging times.

We remain committed to addressing problematic substance use with a public health approach, and to continue working closely with all levels of government. In addition, we will continue to work with civil society organizations, first line responders, academics, people with lived and living experience and other key stakeholders to assess options that could better support the needs of people who use drugs during this difficult time. For example, Health Canada officials continue to engage with the British Columbia government, the City of Vancouver, local service providers, and others, to provide support and assist in overdose response efforts that address local and regional needs.

The overdose crisis is a complex public health issue and we recognize that no single organization or level of government can solve this situation alone. Thank you again for taking the time to share your views and recommendations with us.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Saxe
Director General
Controlled Substances Directorate
Health Canada