

Date: March 20, 2026

To: **Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**

Name and title: Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

Subject: Consideration of advocacy opportunities surrounding fentanyl and drug-related deaths.

Attachment(s): 1. Broken Hearts of Fentanyl presentation

## Recommendation(s):

That the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated March 20, 2026 from the Chair of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, titled "Consideration of advocacy opportunities surrounding fentanyl and drug-related deaths".

## Purpose:

At the January 13, 2026, meeting of the Standing Committee on Public Safety, the committee referred correspondence for consideration of advocacy to the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs.

## Background:

Since the public health emergency for toxic drugs was declared in 2016, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has seen a 105% total increase in annual overdose/poisoning events. In 2025, BCEHS paramedics responded to a total of 39,592 overdose/poisoning patient events, compared to 40,543 overdose or poisoning patient events in 2024. This represents a 2% decrease from the previous year.

Contrary to the overall downward trend, deaths among youth (18 and younger) increased, with 26 deaths reported in 2025, up from 21 in 2024.

The correspondence requests that the Committee support the consideration of advocacy opportunities regarding issues surrounding fentanyl and drug-related deaths.

Should the committee wish to support advocacy on this initiative, staff request a resolution directing this work.

## Summary and conclusion:

This report is provided for information.

Respectfully submitted:

Councillor Garth Frizzell, Chair, Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

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Approved:

Andy Beesley, Acting City Manager/Director of Civic Facilities and Events

Meeting date: 2025/04/07