



Village of Tahsis

April 7, 2021

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

Dear Minister,

The Village of Tahsis Council calls upon the Government of Canada to fully implement the National Overdose Action Plan. The Council has adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the opioid crisis is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death about every two hours on average and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020);

AND WHEREAS other countries have significantly reduced drug-related fatalities with reforms such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply and decriminalization for personal use;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

AND WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests “decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use”;

AND WHEREAS the overdose crisis rages, showing few signs of abating;

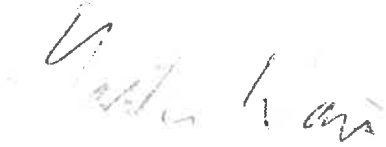
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council:

- a) request that the Government of Canada:
 - i) declare the overdose crisis a national public health; and
 - ii) immediately seek input from the people most affected by this 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.

Village of Tahsis
977 South Maquinna Drive
P.O. Box 219 Tahsis BC V0P 1X0
TEL: (250) 934-6344 FAX: (250) 934-6622
www.villageoftahsis.com

On behalf of Council, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Martin Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Mayor Martin Davis

cc: Rachel Blaney, MP, North Island-Powell River
Mayor Lyn Hall, City of Prince George