

21 July 2021

Lyn Hall
Mayor
City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mr. Hall;

Thank you for copying the Resort Municipality of Whistler in your correspondence to Minister of Health, Patty Hadju in regards to the opioid crisis and call for overdose action plan.

At the January 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Council also passed a resolution to refer to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities our support of the following resolution from several municipalities including Prince George regarding the opioid crisis:

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”, causing the Federal Health Minister to indicate the government is now “deliberating” over decriminalization;

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 emergency so that it is taken seriously and funded appropriately

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

I look forward to this year's UBCM convention and the opportunity to work together toward advocacy of important matters for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JC", is positioned above the printed name.

Jack Crompton
Mayor