



December 18, 2020

All UBCM Members  
via email

Dear Colleagues:

**Re: Overdose Crisis and Call for Overdose Action Plan**

At the December 15, 2020, Regular Council meeting, Council passed 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", 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:*

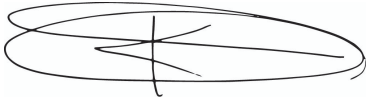
- a) *request that the Government of Canada:*

  - 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*

- b) *forward this motion to other BC municipalities and request they make a similar motion to ask the Government of Canada to address the overdose crisis*

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'K' followed by 'C', all enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

Ken Christian, Mayor  
City of Kamloops

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attachment