Langley City Hall, 20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley, BC Canada V3A 4B3 mayor@langleycity.ca

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Dr. Victoria Lee, MD MPH MBA CCFP FRCPC
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fraser Health
Suite 400, Central City Tower
13450 - 102nd Avenue
Surrey, BC V3T 0H1

Via Email: victoria.lee@fraserhealth.ca

Dear Dr. Lee:

## Re: Langley Health Contract Services to Operate an Overdose Prevention Site

Firstly, I want to thank Mr. Dan Kipper and Ms. Erin Gibson for making a presentation to City Council on February 22, 2021 regarding the Fraser Health Authority's (FHA) plan to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Health Contract Services provider to operate an Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) in either the City or the Township of Langley. The presentation was informative and highlighted that the OPSs are spaces where people are provided a safe setting to use their previously obtained substances under the supervision of someone trained to recognize and respond to an overdose. The presentation also pointed to the fact that there is a drug overdose crisis in British Columbia, and that overdose prevention services are an integral component of supporting people who use drugs as they provide access to health services across the continuum of public health and mental health services, including witnessed consumption.

As you know, Langley City is a very compassionate community with many faith-based and non-profit organizations offering essential support and services to the vulnerable population in our community. Langley City is also home to many government and social service agencies who support the same vulnerable population, including people with drug addiction and mental health issues. As Langley City is only 10 square kilometres in size, most of our community, especially the downtown core, will experience some level of impact, perceived or otherwise, by having an OPS. We have a vibrant and thriving downtown despite the ongoing challenges of homelessness, mental health issues, and drug addiction faced by some members of our

community. Langley City is committed to being part of the solution to address the opioid crisis and at the same time maintain our downtown as an economic and tourism driver.

To this end, City Council, at its Closed Meeting of March 22, 2021, approved the following resolution:

- 1. THAT City Council write to the Minister of Health and the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) to convey the City's position with respect to the proposed Langley Health Contract Services provider to operate an Overdose Prevention Site in either the City of Langley or the Township of Langley:
  - a. THAT should the qualified service provider select a location within the municipal boundary of the City of Langley for the Langley Health Contract Services (Overdose Prevention Site), the Ministry of Health and FHA require the qualified service provider to meet the following conditions and requirements:
    - i. A potential OPS shall be located within the land use designation Service Commercial bounded by the Langley Bypass, 200<sup>th</sup> Street and Fraser Highway, as illustrated in Schedule "A";
    - ii. A formal rezoning process is required for the proposed service since no existing zones permit the use;
    - iii. All additional services shall be provided inside the facility (i.e. food security programs, public washrooms access, computer/phone access, others); and
    - iv. Security and site cleanup around the facility shall be provided 7 days per week 24 hours per day.
    - v. The service provider shall develop a good neighbour committee.

Langley City Council recognizes that these are complex and complicated issues and there is no 'one size fits all' approach when treating people with drug addiction. We also recognize that these services are much needed in the community and hence we have taken a balanced approach to do our part to address the opioid crisis.

Yours truly, CITY OF LANGLEY

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Attachment

cc: Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health Langley City Council Dan Kipper, Fraser Health Authority