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June 16, 2022

Mayor Val van den Broek
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3

Dear Mayor van den Broek,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the dialogue opportunity at the City of Langley Council working meeting on May 30th, 2022. The Fraser Health team who met with you was encouraged to hear the passion and support of Council to mitigate the tragedy of the toxic drug crisis in Langley.

As previously shared, overdose prevention services are a vital part of an overall harm reduction strategy that often becomes the first step in redirecting people's healthcare outcomes. Overdose prevention services provide connection and referral to treatment and recovery including Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT), community counselling, residential treatment, and other services. Overdose prevention services can reduce rates of public drug consumption, reduce the amount of discards in the surrounding area, and reduce violence and/or property crime. Provision of sterile supplies for consumption reduces the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C. Importantly, availability of a safe space also reduces unobserved substance use and subsequently reduces the chance that a person will overdose and die.

In order to achieve the benefits above, as we have not found a suitable location to offer a fixed site for the Overdose Prevention Site (OPS) within the City of Langley, we will be implementing a mobile option. The mobile OPS vehicle design was shared with Council at the working meeting referenced above.

In consultation with Fraser Health legal department, we understand:

- A mobile OPS can be run from a van in the Vineyard parking lot without breaching Langley Bylaws if the OPS is provided through a non-profit society (such as Lookout), making it a "community service" which is permitted in the P2 Zone.
- Van awning can be used
- Inhalation tent of 9 feet x 9 feet (81 square feet) can be used without a building permit (tent must be less than 10m² or ~107 square feet or a permit is required)





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- A business license is not required to run the OPS site
- Exemption under s56.1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)* to operate a supervised consumption site is not required.
 - The Ministerial Order (488/2016) that requires FHA to implement OPS during the overdose public health emergency eliminates the need to apply for this federal exemption in the case of OPS sites.

We believe that that OPS meets the definition of a community service. I would be grateful if you would urge City staff to support the operation of the Mobile unit operated by Lookout Health and Housing Society unencumbered and continue to work in partnership with Fraser Health to develop programs and services that support overdose prevention the city of Langley.

Is you have questions feel free to connect with Christine Mackie, Executive Director Overdose Response & Vulnerable Populations (Christine.mackie@fraserhealth.ca).

Sincerely,

Dr. Ingrid Tyler
Acting Vice President, Population Health
Fraser Health Authority

cc. Victoria Lee, President & CEO, Fraser Health
Elizabeth Brodtkin, Vice President Population Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

