

File No. 04-1000-20-2016-474

February 27, 2017

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")

I am responding to your request of December 12, 2016 for:

**Records from April 14, 2016 to December 12, 2016, from the Mayor's Office and the City Manager's Office:**

- 1) Records that can be described as or contain what can be described as input and/or feedback and/or correspondence, including emails and attachments, from the public concerning fentanyl, the fentanyl crisis, the overdose epidemic, drug overdose deaths and/or feedback pertaining to a public-health emergency the provincial government declared regarding overdose deaths on April 14, 2016;**
- 2) Records of any responses to submissions from the public concerning the fentanyl crisis and/or drug-overdose deaths from the Mayor's Office, the City Manager's Office, and the Mayor and Council mailbox.**

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.13(1) and s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections here: [http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/96165\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00)

Under section 52 of the Act you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your request. The Act allows you 30 business days from the date you receive this notice to request a review by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, [info@oipc.bc.ca](mailto:info@oipc.bc.ca) or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number assigned to your request (#04-1000-20-2016-474); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request for information sent to the City of Vancouver; and 4) detailed reasons or grounds on which you are seeking the review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Office at [foi@vancouver.ca](mailto:foi@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. Van Fraassen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA  
Director, Access to Information  
*City Clerk's Department, City of Vancouver*

Encl.

:kt

## MEMORANDUM

December 05, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office

FROM: Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management

SUBJECT: Fentanyl Crisis and 2017 Budget Options - RTS 11787

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Dear Mayor and Council,

This memo is in response to Council's November 29, 2016 request for staff to provide an information memo outlining possible additional budget options to provide the City with flexibility in responding to the growing fentanyl and overdose crisis. The memo is to be brought forward as part of the Budget considerations at the Special Council meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and the public is to be made aware of the options which may be available to Council.

### 1. FENTANYL AND OVERDOSE CRISIS

To date in 2016, British Columbia has experienced a record number of overdoses with over 600 lives lost. The impact of this situation is both the loss of life as well as the impact on the city's first responders and people who are providing front line services. This is a crisis. It is unclear if it will get worse, improve or continue at this level.

Staff and first responders have been dealing with the situation for months. They have taken on new training and responsibilities to be able to respond to the risk of overdose in the community. This has also led to increased workload and stress on front line staff and first responders. As well we are seeing increased numbers of homeless and those in need of housing in shelters, parks and on the street. Public realm cleanliness has been significantly impacted with a significant increase in the number of needles in parks and sidewalks, and abandoned garbage in streets, lanes and sidewalks. While a significant increase in sanitation services was approved as part of the 2016 budget, the need is continuing to increase.

## 2. TARGETED INVESTMENTS IN THE 2017 BUDGET

The proposed 2017 budget includes a significant level of new investment in targeted areas which will supplement the current budgets and service levels. As noted by the City Manager at the November 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, many of these investments, approximately equivalent to a 1.2% property tax increase are targeted to respond to the issues of poverty, mental health and addiction, and homelessness which are having a major impact on the City putting pressure on first responders, front line staff and impacting the public. These actions include:

- \$3.8M for Public Realm Cleanliness across the city - building on investments in 2016, this will focus on abandoned waste, additional street cleaning micro-grants, additional litter cans and streetscape recycling.
- \$0.7M for additional security at public buildings, including libraries and \$0.4M for 5 additional park rangers to respond to safety and security concerns at public buildings and parks
- \$0.5M to support new operations at Strathcona Branch Library operating costs and \$0.2M for increasing the Library's collections, increasing the availability of safe and supportive facilities for the public, including its most vulnerable population
- \$2.5M for Interim Housing for those in transitional housing, and \$2.1M for the empty homes tax implementation to provide more available rental housing for those in need of housing.
- \$1.8M for the Downtown Eastside to improve the cleanliness, street order, and safety and security in the neighborhood and for social initiatives including economic and employment opportunities. This includes the DTES street market and Women's market, Lux operations, Violence Risk assessment and low barrier employment and resources at Carnegie, Gathering Place and Evelyn Saller Center. As well, continued work over the next 3-5 years with Vancouver Coastal Health and St. Paul's regarding mental health and addiction

## 3. POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL ACTIONS:

As it is unclear if the crisis has peaked or if it will continue to worsen, the capacity for the organization to respond is difficult to anticipate. It is clear, however, that the crisis is creating considerable stress on our staff and the community. It would, therefore, be prudent to ensure there is capacity in the organization should it be required to deal with an escalating crisis. Council has asked staff to identify potential options to consider, and potential costs, in addition to those already included in the proposed 2017 budget.

The following are a number of possible areas which could be considered to address the crisis.

- a) Support to front line staff and first responders:
  - a. Training for City of Vancouver front line staff, including parks and sanitation in areas such as cultural competency and overdose management (up to \$20,000)
  - b. Enhanced mental health support for firefighters and front-line city/parks staff (up to \$130,000)
  - c. Adding a community policing center in Strathcona (\$200k/year)



- b) Additional staff resources:
  - a. Additional staff support for overdose management at shelters and/or outreach workers (approximately \$65k per position)
  - b. Additional staff to enable less overtime and/or time off for staff (cost per staff varies; ~\$60,000 - \$90,000 per staff)
  - c. Additional VFRS Medic unit (3 person crew) supporting the DTES (~\$600,000 per shift to \$1.8 million for 24 hour fully staffed unit)
- c) Community support:
  - a. Youth education program targeted at substance abuse education and harm reduction (up to \$200,000)
  - b. Treatment on demand study and strategy to develop a policy for immediate entry into drug treatment programs (up to \$100,000)
  - c. Additional shelter space
- d) Public Realm:
  - a. Additional LED lighting in Oppenheimer Park (approx. \$25k)
  - b. Additional sweeping/flushing (approx. \$50k)
  - c. Street cleaning grant program increase and low threshold employment for streetscape maintenance - including needle pickup and needle sweeps in Strathcona (approx. \$250k)

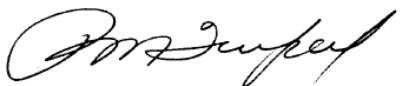
#### 4. BUDGET PROCESS IMPACT:

The current proposed 2017 budget includes targeted investments in areas such as the DTES to address the increased need for service - driven in part by the fentanyl and overdose crisis. As it is difficult to anticipate the future needs for 2017 as the crisis may continue, increase or moderate, it would be prudent give flexibility to staff and Council in determining opportunities as they arise and as staff has had time to fully outline an initiative. With that in mind, Council may wish to consider an increase in property tax directed to the Council Contingency. In that way, funds will be available in 2017, and the contingency can be used to address unforeseen needs. Staff would then bring back one or more reports to Council outlining recommended actions that would require funding from the Council contingency.

An additional .5% in property tax would provide an additional \$3.5 million available for programs or initiatives. That, in addition to the regular Council Contingency of \$4 million would give Council \$7.5 million that could be available to direct to initiatives noted above or new opportunities as needed to address the crisis.

Should you have any questions regarding the above information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Best Regards,



Patrice Impey  
General Manager, Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management

(T) 604.873.7610

(E) [patrice.impey@vancouver.ca](mailto:patrice.impey@vancouver.ca)

From: ["Van Mayor's Office" <vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca>](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 11/1/2016 10:30:49 AM

Subject: Approach to drug use

Hello s.22(1)

On behalf of Mayor Robertson, thank you for your message.

Mayor Robertson takes the issue of drug use very seriously, and has repeatedly spoken out about the impact of drug addiction and overdoses in our community, including earlier this year when the Mayor called on the federal government to [repeal the harmful Respect for Communities Act](#).

While the VPD works to enforce drug laws in Vancouver, history and research have shown that policing alone is not a solution. That's why the City has adopted a [comprehensive approach which also focuses on harm reduction, prevention, and treatment](#).

Other actions Mayor Robertson has taken include:

- ☐ Creating the [Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions](#)
- ☐ Repeatedly speaking out in support of supervised injection sites, including the 2 sites recently announced by Vancouver Coastal Health
- ☐ Supporting a City grant of \$1,000,000 towards a proposed Mental Health Hub at St. Paul's
- ☐ Endorsing the 'Stop the Violence' campaign
- ☐ Calling for urgently-needed housing and health investments to help those with mental illness

The City of Vancouver will continue to work with the provincial and federal governments and other partners to implement a coordinated approach, with the goal of reducing harm and creating safer, healthier communities.

Thank you for your engagement and your concern for fellow residents.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

From: s.22(1)

To: ["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)  
["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)  
["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)  
["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)  
[vancouver.ca <CLRdeal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CLRdeal@vancouver.ca)  
["Louie, Raymond" <Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca)  
["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)  
["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)  
["Stevenson, Tim" <Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/7/2016 4:38:15 PM

Subject: Fentanyl crisis and property tax

The fentanyl crisis is indeed a crisis. While it is by no means confined to the DTES, for that section of the population, already devastated by the difficulties of life, this has added a new and evil danger to their already difficult life experience. I have great empathy and sympathy for all of them, long before this new issue arose.

With that said, this proposal of adding a surcharge to property owners has me very troubled and somewhat infuriated. This crisis is a priority, and I don't see that taxing "us" is the answer. Priorities require prioritization, and it seems to me that until this issue is dealt with, a reallocation of the city's budget from frills ( art exhibits ) to the necessities ( THIS crisis) is in order. There are millions and millions of dollars of frills in the city's budget ( delay bike lanes for a year or two ), and I would also advocate a freeze on frill budgets, until this crisis is appropriately funded/dealt with.

While I wish I knew the answer to these people's plight, ( I don't even know the questions ), it is my fervent opinion that if the city wants \$3.5M odd to attack it, find it by reallocating the budget, not further burdening property owners.

Respectfully submitted,

s.22(1)

Vancouver BC V5Y 0E5

s.22(1)

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/8/2016 11:42:54 PM

Subject: Fentanyl "epidemic"

Don't know if it's just a media thing making for a good, sensational story or if it's simply politicians at every level seeking television coverage for ego gratification but here's my take on this "story": if you're stupid enough to do drugs . . regardless of what your drug of choice is . . and your bad choice leads to an overdose (and potentially death), you deserve what you get. Asking responsible members of society to pay more in taxes for healthcare to keep these unfortunate souls alive is absolutely ridiculous!

Has any one considered that this "epidemic" is just nature's way of eliminating the walking stupid who share our air space? Hate to sound like a Scrooge at this time of year but seriously, this story is getting boring: move on.

s.22(1)

New Westminster

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: ["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/9/2016 7:35:40 AM

Subject: Fentanyl

Mr. Mayor,

The call to level a property tax so the City can help on fentanyl issues is incorrect on many levels, and cynical, coming as it does on the already excessive property tax increase--what the heck, if they they can swallow 3.4 they can swallow 3.9,( even though you could find the funding by trimming the communications department by 25%.)

Could this be a grab by the fire department to stay relevant in an otherwise safer city, and by Vision to want to address an issue worrying developers and foreign investors, all while interfering in a Provincial issue?

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>  
"Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>  
"Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/12/2016 4:43:40 PM

Subject: Fw: Opioid Crisis tax thoughts

PS--please do not share my email publically...to media or otherwise

Thank you

s.22(1)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: December 12, 2016 4:39 PM

To: gregor.robertson@vancouver.ca; CLRJang@vancouver.ca; CLRreimer@vancouver.ca

Subject: Opioid Crisis tax thoughts

Dear City Council,

I have been following the discourse on the proposal to raise property taxes by .5% to help cover the costs connected to the opioid crisis in our city.

I am writing to say Stop It. I'm not a crazy person, and in fact am very engaged in the community as a volunteer, a parent, a full time employee and a beleaguered tax payer.

How does a taxpaying, fully employed, empathetic volunteer conclude that a mere \$70-100 more on my tax bill to help people who really need help is wrong? It's because it

does nothing to address the underlying issues which all levels of gov't have avoided and/or ignored all these years. The City of Vancouver has allowed rampant development including in the very neighbourhoods where the majority of the OD's are occurring with deals to developers that are far too sweet. You know it, informed citizens who know many of these developers know it.

I offer two alternatives. One is a no-brainer and the other arises after careful thought and concern about the mess that festers and grows unabated in the DTES:

1. Assess a new property related tax to developers that far exceeds the .5% you claim would raise 3-4 million dollars. This is peanuts to developers. Design a tax for them that would yield more.
2. Lead a discussion with the provincial and federal governments to appoint a Mayor-like person to figure out the DTES taking all three levels of gov't into account. Call this person the Czar of the DTES or something like it. I used to think this was the perfect post-Olympics role for John Furlong but no longer. It needs to be someone with his skills in business, with gov't at all levels and with community spirit. We need this person now. The creation of this position would be ground-breaking in North America I believe. We could then potentially figure out how to use the one million dollars a day in services and agencies that are spent in the DTES right now --that comes out of our taxes BTW--that are not helping these citizens with major addiction and helplessness issues who need our best and brightest innovations.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)

["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:20:51 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#) Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: No name provided

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Raising property taxes to pay for the fentanyl crisis

Are you kidding?? I am first of all absolutely in favor of helping those in need this is a crisis. You say the city can't find the money. Perhaps you are too busy misappropriating funds to developers to locate the funds for the venerable. Since you all seem to incompetent to find the money within the city budget, I have found the money for you. Enough of this bike lane/ bike share bullshit. No one wants to ride bikes. It's over. Get over it. It rains nearly every day. The population is aging and many of us have small children. We are NEVER riding bikes! So use the money you were going to use towards another useless bike lane and help those in need .

Response Required: No

From: s.22(1)

To: ["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/9/2016 10:21:42 PM

Subject: HPRM: city budget

Honourable Mayor,

We Vancouver residents are facing a triple whammy as home assessment skyrockets while fair market value dives and city council prepares to impose an unprecedented 4.6% increase in fees and property tax. To add insult to injury, the idea is being floated for an additional 0.5% increase for the fentanyl "contingency" fund. Since when did Vancouver residents give council the mandate to do that?

The talk of heritage retention is causing tremendous apprehension for those of us who live in older homes. The fear of severe erosion of our property value is real and prevalent among my peers. We have worked long and hard to acquire our home and the equity is needed to fund our retirement. Home values have already taken a haircut from market uncertainties since the introduction of empty home tax, foreign buyers tax, stringent CMHC requirements and rising interest rates. There are a lot of baby boomers like myself who are frightened and angry. Heritage retention should be incentivized through tax abatement and should be initiated at the neighbourhood level according to residents' desires. It is wrong for city hall to dictate what each neighbourhood wants in a top down heavy-handed approach. Throughout Vancouver, the anger is palpable over the tyrannical rule of the Vision dominated council whose wanton disregard of citizens' outcry has been the hallmark of their legacy.

I have seen the level of city services decline while my taxes are going up. I am reminded every time I look out my window and see the messy streets with all the leaves being turned into a brown slush. It is dangerous for people to walk on this slippery mess. Where are the street cleaners that used to come every fall to clean up the city's leaves? Funds are being diverted to build bike lanes in stead of providing these fundamental services. It is unacceptable for the city to raise our taxes, spend \$17.4M on bike lanes and ignore our basic needs.

Don't forget, council's mandate is to serve ALL the people of Vancouver, not just those who happen to reside in or near Grandview-Woodland. Residents who live in other neighbourhoods also have an interest in the well being of their city and their concerns MUST be heard and respected. I urge you to be a council for every Vancouver resident and listen to our concerns.

s.22(1)

Vancouver



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

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["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/13/2016 4:55:16 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments & Response Required, [s.22\(1\)](#); Refers to UB-1 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Regular Council Mtg, Wed Dec 13, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Mr. [s.22\(1\)](#) would like to speak to someone in regards to the proposed 3.4% tax increase, plus an additional .5% increase for the fentanyl overdose crisis. He prefers to speak directly to a contact that can listen to his concerns and update him on the status of what has been decided thus far.

Response Required: Yes

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

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["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 4:23:17 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, Anonymous, Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: Anonymous, Dec 2016

Contact: N/A

Comments:

Vancouver City Hall wants to know what to do about the drug overdoses/deaths and the idea of introducing taxes to deal with the "expenses"... There is the problem that those that are contaminating street drugs with fentanyl (excuse the spelling errors) may be the street drug dealers doesn't make sense... why kill off their income supply? Therefore where are they coming in from other countries? So airport and border security needs to inspect more thoroughly. All levels of government are responsible to ensure the safety security good health of our citizens/family members. Rather than invest tax monies into safe injection sites, utilize tax monies to bombard BC/Canadian neighbourhoods and Family members with rehabilitation centres and education materials that prevent addictions before they become incapacitated. It can't be all about peer pressure when reactions to traumatic events that are occurring daily people need to be taught coping skills and television music etc. manipulate their emotions through suggestive commercial/programming an inability to cope with personal situations they face. Right now televisions music video gaming in these mediums are youths guidance counsellors and babysitters are doing a lousy job. Opening an abundance of "supervised" injection sites helps them remain in an addicted state of incapacitation... offering them an opportunity that they can be free of whatever is addicting and then trapping them in their addiction is where the real solution can be realized in every city across Canada not just Vancouver BC

Response Required: No

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Corporate Management Team \ \(COV\) - DL" <cmt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:cmt@vancouver.ca)  
["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)  
["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)  
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["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Mayor's Office \ \(COV\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)  
["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/8/2016 3:49:17 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, Anonymous, Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: Anonymous, December 2016

Contact: n/a

Comments:  
Caller heard on the news that COV will be imposing a 0.5% property tax increase for the fentanyl overdose crisis. There is nothing on Vancouver.ca or official City media release that this property tax is in place or will be in place. Advised the citizen of this. He thinks it would be good to note that there are others in need of help too, not just people who overdose on drugs. Why would the City not help people like seniors who built this city? Or disabled people? These are just his comments that he wanted to add if the City is in fact raising taxes to help a certain sector of the City's people.

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

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["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\) " <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 5:42:07 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, Anonymous, Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: Anonymous, December 2016

Contact: n/a

Comments:

De Genova asked why a tax increase is being sought when funds may be found elsewhere in the city's budget to respond to the drug crisis."

Thanks for looking out for the taxpayers and asking this question De Genova! I think you're the only one young enough to understand how the Millennials are feeling at this moment-FRUSTRATION! Gorge Affleck, disappointed you didn't oppose all the tax increases and rate increases. Where is all the accountability and transparency?

If Geoff Meggs had proposed yet another tax increase... WTF?!?!

We're not rich like you guys are with the deep pockets and drug dealer son who is contributing to the drug problem in Vancouver. We feel it's like extortion. The criminal son feeds them with Fentanyl Drugs and the tax payers must all fund the overdoses. This problem is clearly a useless Christy Clark issue. Gregor, you related to her, as you're both out of touch, useless, and clueless.

"City of Vancouver to raise property taxes, utility fees, and other charges to fund 2017 budget"

Patrice Impey needs to be fired. How about you fire a whack of useless people to stay within budget. can name one right now...G.R.

How about you didn't give yourself a whopping 12.6% pay raise. Who gets that? Nobody Joe Average. They are lucky to get 2% pay raise. Stop comparing yourselves to other cities. Most people are lucky to still have a job this Christmas. I guess you guys wouldn't know that now, would you, as you're so out of touch with reality.



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)

["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 5:49:37 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#), Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Address: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Dear Mayor Robertson,

I strongly oppose the 0.5% property tax increase to help combat the fentanyl crisis our city is now experiencing.

My parents are retired, in their late 60's and they own their own home. In order for them to own their own home, they saved as much as they could working long hours in their minimum wage jobs while supporting three kids. They should be enjoying their retirement but no, they have to worry about how to pay their ever increasing property tax rate. This year my father didn't qualify for the senior's grant because his property was estimated a few hundred dollars over the minimum grant rate.

Why should a certain group of people have to shoulder an additional tax when the fentanyl crisis is something that affects the entire city/province? Please take into consideration that everyone that owns their own home is not necessarily well off financially. Would you please look into other options to combat this crisis vs targeting a specific group of people?

Response Required: Yes



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)

["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/14/2016 10:15:51 AM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#); Refers to UB-1 2017 Capital and Operating Budget,  
Regular Council Mtg, Wed Dec 13, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Citizen disapproves of the planned 0.5% property tax increase to deal with the ongoing fentanyl crisis. He reports that he is working too hard for his money to finance people taking drugs and deciding to drop out of society.

Response Required: No

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Corporate Management Team \\(\COV\\) - DL" <cmt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:cmt@vancouver.ca)

["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)

["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\) " <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/8/2016 3:54:05 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, s.22(1), Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: s.22(1)

Contact: s.22(1)

Comments:

Citizen heard about the proposal for the .5% property tax hike to fund the City's response to the drug overdoses from drugs like fentanyl. He wanted to pass along his feedback that he is against this. He said, "If people want to use illegal drugs, I'm not paying for them. They can drop dead for all I'm concerned." He has his own s.22(1) company and he said he will shut his company down and lay off all his employees if this goes through.

Response Required: No



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)

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["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:31:47 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#); Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Address: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Subject: Fentanyl overdose crisis.

As a property owner I'm getting really tired of the city's assumption that I have bags of money lying around to pay for everything. A possible 5.1% tax increase but I can only recoup 2.5% from my tenants, that doesn't help pay my 1.4M mortgage. I made the choice to invest in real estate but having all levels of government meddle in it is not helping, especially two faced Clarke, 'I'll leave equity alone but here's a tax to kill it...'

I have no issue with the need for funds to deal with the fentanyl overdose crisis. BUT this is a society issue, not a Vancouver infrastructure issue. These are not just people from Vancouver nor is it only happening in Vancouver. Put the responsibility to step up on everyone, add .5% to provincial income tax. Or a consumption tax, .5% added to the PST. As property owners we cannot pass a percentage of these costs through to our tenants, your tax is not the only cost increase we'll see.

While we're at it add a fee based on the ICBC appraised price of a vehicle onto car insurance to pay for transit. I have a car worth about \$5K I'd do a \$200 fee, or get rid of the car. If you can afford to drive a \$200,000 sports car you can pay for the privilege. If you want to be the greenest city then step up to the plate and do something real.

Response Required No



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Corporate Management Team \\(\COV\\) - DL" <cmt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:cmt@vancouver.ca)

["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

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["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)

["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\) " <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/8/2016 3:06:57 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#), Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

Citizen believes that the 0.5% increase in property tax isn't fair and just for the fentanyl and drug programs. She believes that the city doesn't do it's services like cleaning side streets and to charge extra tax isn't right. She believes it shouldn't fall on the residents.

Response Required: No

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

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["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:43:34 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#); Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:  
Fentanyl tax hike

And what next. This is absurd. With the hundreds of millions of new tax revenue from out of control housing development in the city our taxes should be going down not up. That Hastings and Main area is a disgrace. Drug dealers openly selling to the addicts who go to a government funded site, overdose, return for more drugs etc. The City is to blame for this tragedy. I understand that the police have been told to leave the dealers alone. And it must be true because the situation gets worse every year. You and your vision group should be ashamed of your selves.

Response Required: No



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

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["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)

["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:17:20 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, s.22(1) Refers to Item No. 1 - 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Special Council Mtg, Wed Dec 07, 2016

Name: s.22(1)

Contact: s.22(1)

Address: s.22(1)

Comments:

Fentanyl overdose crisis forum

I just saw on the news (forget which station) that the City of Vancouver is considering raising property taxes to gain funds to deal with the problem as detailed above.

I must admit this is truly unfair, unjust and an outrage as I do not see the correlation between myself and the taxes I pay (always on time) as a method to raise funds to deal with the issue.

To my mind, this problem is under the umbrella of health and social services and has nothing to do with the services for which my taxes are being collected, i.e. water, sewage, lighting, street care (cleaning and leaf removal), schools and the like. Although I personally do not feel I should have to pay school fees as I do not use any of the schools. Regardless, the idea of property tax monies as a means to fund fentanyl overdose crisis management is totally improper.

To truly deal with any drug use or overuse, the assistance should be initiated by examining the reason why drugs are used in the first place - to determine the cause of the use. A Band-Aid effect of treatment after overdoses is pointless as it only helps temporarily. This social services approach is again not related to property taxes.

I am sure there is a bounty of literature available related to drug overdoses and how to truly, fairly and justly treat the problem from the root cause. And I am sure there are professionals in this same area of study who should be consulted and their advice taken action upon as the solution to the problem.

Using property tax funds will further diminish services in the city of Vancouver and concerning the "mandate" of making Vancouver a green city will truly be tarnished further as I do not believe this city is green with the amount of garbage all over the city's residential areas, to name one concern I have due to the removal of trash bins along busy streets. And along this same train of thought, proper trash bins should be used which also provide ashtrays for smokers as well as a recycling option. In London, England their trash bins have a twofold use, 1. trash and 2. strictly for cigarette/cigar butts. I am not saying London is a cleaner city but I provide food for thought.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for me to forward my concerns.

Response Required: Yes





From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)

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["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/13/2016 12:57:43 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#); Refers to UB-1 2017 Capital and Operating Budget, Regular Council Mtg, Tues Dec 13, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

My partner and I have lived in Vancouver for 35 years and have been a home-owners for 20 years. I have always voted for Vision and before that COPE. If this added tax goes through I am done. I've gritted my teeth with each annual tax increase while I've watched a more and more politicized and out-of-touch city council waste money on projects like bars on the Burrard street bridge; the love-lock eyesore (the locks, not the beautiful metal sculptures) and a potential bike route down one of the busiest bus, traffic and pedestrian streets in the city (Commercial Drive). The fentanyl issue is not a municipal issue and our council's time should be spent cooperating with the provincial and federal agencies in order to find ways to prevent and treat opioid use. Hiring highly-trained and paid first responders to play nurse-maids to addicts is a huge waste of money and encourages addicts to 'push-the-boundaries' of a high.

Btw - we are still waiting to have our annual street cleaning on [s.22\(1\)](#) - after the snow clears we will still be slipping on rotting leaves.

Response Required No



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)

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["Mayor's Office \\(\COV\\)" <Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Mayor's.Office@vancouver.ca)

["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/13/2016 2:36:14 PM

Subject: HPRM: Comments, [s.22\(1\)](#), Refers to UB-1 2017 Capital and Operating Budget,  
Regular Council Mtg, Wed Dec 13, 2016

Name: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Contact: [s.22\(1\)](#)

Comments:

New Fentanyl property tax

Why should property owners be penalized with a higher property tax to cover the costs of Fentanyl over doses.....Not Fair....

Why not use the new empty home tax, it's new money for the city, put it to this task at hand

Do not pass it onto the tax payers...

This city is expensive enough , give us a break.....

This new tax would be ridiculous..

Response Required: No

From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/11/2016 9:39:27 PM

Subject: HPRM: Fentanyl crisis

Dear Mayor Robertson

I'm outraged by your blithe suggestion Vancouver property owners can afford a 3.9% tax increase, particularly given the seven million dollars you are lavishing on Pt Grey Road, and the cash you are wasting by paving the Arbutus Connector.

As well, first responders should be paramedics, not firemen. To suggest otherwise is ridiculous.

Time after time, you have demonstrated that your wealth has insulated you from any financial concerns, and are therefore unable to empathize with the average taxpayer.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

Vancouver

Sent from my iPad



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 3:21:11 PM

Subject: HPRM: FW: Proposed property Tax Increase to support the management of the Public Health Crisis i.e. drug overdose crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2016 4:47 PM

To: Impey, Patrice; Robertson, Gregor; Mayor Media

Cc: Media - Radio/TV - CBC Radio, TV; s.22(1)

Subject: Proposed property Tax Increase to support the management of the Public Health Crisis i.e. drug overdose crisis

Well, this is a first for me, sending in my objection to a consideration by Vancouver City Council that will directly impact my life negatively. I am taking advantage of the offer from Patrice Impey to contact her directly if there are any questions to her memo to the mayor and council of December 5 2016 (attached). I have questions in regard to the reported property tax increase to support the recent increase in drug overdose deaths and near deaths from fentanyl and carfentanil.

In the options to council, outlined in the attached memo, for collecting additional budget funds to address this overdose issue, I did not see the option to access significant funds by grant application from the Civil Forfeiture Office funds. Would this not be an appropriate use of those funds? I say again, would this not be a more appropriate option for additional funds as the drug supply is a criminal activity costing our community, and many others, dearly in resources and human life?

I did not see this option listed for councils consideration. Is there a reason why not?

My concern is that the property tax increase, although purportedly dedicated to support the communities response to a particular crisis, that these tax dollars will just remain in general revenue. When the next public health crisis hits us will you then add another infinite increase in property tax? I am so incensed that this could be a serious consideration. I don't believe that a property tax increase is appropriate to deal with a public health crisis that will come and go until the next one.

I strongly request you add an application for a grant from the Civil Forfeiture Office as a priority option for consideration for CoV City Council and implore you to access the link below.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/crime-prevention/community-crime-prevention/grants>

Respectfully

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC V6K 1B4  
Canada

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: ["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)  
["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/12/2016 4:39:08 PM

Subject: HPRM: Opioid Crisis tax thoughts

Dear City Council,

I have been following the discourse on the proposal to raise property taxes by .5% to help cover the costs connected to the opioid crisis in our city.

I am writing to say Stop It. I'm not a crazy person, and in fact am very engaged in the community as a volunteer, a parent, a full time employee and a beleaguered tax payer.

How does a taxpaying, fully employed, empathetic volunteer conclude that a mere \$70-100 more on my tax bill to help people who really need help is wrong? It's because it does nothing to address the underlying issues which all levels of gov't have avoided and/or ignored all these years. The City of Vancouver has allowed rampant development including in the very neighbourhoods where the majority of the OD's are occurring with deals to developers that are far too sweet. You know it, informed citizens who know many of these developers know it.

I offer two alternatives. One is a no-brainer and the other arises after careful thought and concern about the mess that festers and grows unabated in the DTES:

1. Assess a new property related tax to developers that far exceeds the .5% you claim would raise 3-4 million dollars. This is peanuts to developers. Design a tax for them that would yield more.

2. Lead a discussion with the provincial and federal governments to appoint a Mayor-like person to figure out the DTES taking all three levels of gov't into account. Call this person the Czar of the DTES or something like it. I used to think this was the perfect post-Olympics role for John Furlong but no longer. It needs to be someone with his skills in business, with gov't at all levels and with community spirit. We need this person now. The creation of this position would be ground-breaking in North America I believe. We could then potentially figure out how to use the one million dollars a day in services and agencies that are spent in the DTES right now --that comes out of our taxes BTW--that are not helping these citizens with major addiction and helplessness issues who need our best and brightest innovations.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 3:19:29 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: 0.5% Property Tax Increase to Fight Overdose Crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 2:20 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: 0.5% Property Tax Increase to Fight Overdose Crisis

Dear Mayor and Council,

I just want to voice my opinion regarding the 0.5% property tax hike to fight the overdose crisis.

On compassionate grounds, fighting this overdose crisis is definitely a priority; however, I do not see the accountability in this tax increase.

I would fully support this tax increase if there were significantly accountability in the funds that will be raised from it. Will council mitigate future tax increase if the Fentanyl crisis is over or will this just compound taxes higher into the future. This is a poorly conceptualized tax and I am definitely do not support it.

Unless you can specify how you will use this fund, I will continue to voice my discontent with this tax.

Thank you for reading.

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:28:59 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: budget

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 4:35 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: budget

We Vancouver residents are facing a triple whammy as home assessment skyrockets while fair market value dives and city council prepares to impose an unprecedented 4.6% increase in fees and property tax. To add insult to injury, the idea is being floated for an additional 0.5% increase for the fentanyl "contingency" fund. Since when did Vancouver residents give council the mandate to do that?

The talk of heritage retention is causing tremendous apprehension for those of us who live in older homes. The fear of severe erosion of our property value is real and prevalent among my peers. We have worked long and hard to acquire our home and the equity is needed to fund our retirement. Home values have already taken a haircut from market uncertainties since the introduction of empty home tax, foreign buyers tax, stringent CMHC requirements and rising interest rates. There are a lot of baby boomers like myself who are frightened and angry. Heritage retention should be incentivized through tax abatement and should be initiated at the neighbourhood level according to residents' desires. It is wrong for city hall to dictate what each neighbourhood wants in a top down heavy-handed approach. Throughout Vancouver, the anger is palpable over the tyrannical rule of the Vision dominated council whose wanton disregard of citizens' outcry has been the hallmark of their legacy.

I have seen the level of city services decline while my taxes are going up. I am reminded every time I look out my window and see the messy streets with all the leaves being turned into a brown slush. It is dangerous for people to walk on this slippery mess. Where are the street cleaners that used to come every fall to clean up the city's leaves? Funds are being diverted to build bike lanes in stead of providing these fundamental services. It is unacceptable for the city to raise our taxes, spend \$17.4M on bike lanes and ignore our basic needs.

Don't forget, council's mandate is to serve ALL the people of Vancouver, not just those who happen to reside in or near Grandview-Woodland. Residents who live in other neighbourhoods also have an interest in the well being of their city and their concerns MUST be heard and respected. I urge you to be a council for every Vancouver resident and listen to our concerns.

s.22(1)

Vancouver



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:45:00 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: city budget

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 10:06 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: city budget

We Vancouver residents are facing a triple whammy as home assessment skyrockets while fair market value dives and city council prepares to impose an unprecedented 4.6% increase in fees and property tax. To add insult to injury, the idea is being floated for an additional 0.5% increase for the fentanyl "contingency" fund. Since when did Vancouver residents give council the mandate to do that?

The talk of heritage retention is causing tremendous apprehension for those of us who live in older homes. The fear of severe erosion of our property value is real and prevalent among my peers. We have worked long and hard to acquire our home and the equity is needed to fund our retirement. Home values have already taken a haircut from market uncertainties since the introduction of empty home tax, foreign buyers tax, stringent CMHC requirements and rising interest rates. There are a lot of baby boomers like myself who are frightened and angry. Heritage retention should be incentivized through tax abatement and should be initiated at the neighbourhood level according to residents' desires. It is wrong for city hall to dictate what each neighbourhood wants in a top down heavy-handed approach. Throughout Vancouver, the anger is palpable over the tyrannical rule of the Vision dominated council whose wanton disregard of citizens' outcry has been the hallmark of their legacy.

I have seen the level of city services decline while my taxes are going up. I am reminded every time I look out my window and see the messy streets with all the leaves being turned into a brown slush. It is dangerous for people to walk on this slippery mess. Where are the street cleaners that used to come every fall to clean up the city's leaves? Funds are being diverted to build bike lanes in stead of providing these fundamental services. It is unacceptable for the city to raise our taxes, spend \$17.4M on bike lanes and ignore our basic needs.

Don't forget, council's mandate is to serve ALL the people of Vancouver, not just those who happen to reside in or near Grandview-Woodland. Residents who live in other neighbourhoods also have an interest in the well being of their city and their concerns MUST be heard and respected. I urge you to be a council for every Vancouver resident and listen to our concerns.

s.22(1)

Vancouver



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:41:49 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: City tax increase - fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 5:26 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Cc: sunopinion@vancouver.sun.com

Subject: City tax increase - fentanyl crisis

I was surprised to learn on CBC that Council is considering a property tax increase due to the costs of the fentanyl crisis.

I would like to let you know that I strongly oppose this motion and ask that Council reconsider. I ask that Council request provincial emergency funding for this expense as it is clearly a medical emergency, which is not a municipal responsibility.

While I am compassionate about the lives of addicts using street drugs, I do not agree that homeowners should bear the costs of emergency health care for this population. Many of these addicts are not Vancouver residents; research is now confirming that unfortunately our proactive policies of harm reduction have had the unintended consequence of making us "enablers" and we are now becoming the destination for drug use.

Property taxes should be used to improve the quality of municipal amenities for citizens and taxpayers: libraries, parks, streets, bike routes, community centres, and infrastructure. It is unfair and unreasonable to ask property owners to shoulder this health care cost. Please reconsider.

Thanks,

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/9/2016 9:41:42 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Daphne Bramham: Seriously? A property tax increase to deal with the fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 7:13 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Cc: info@votevision.ca

Subject: Daphne Bramham: Seriously? A property tax increase to deal with the fentanyl crisis

Hello Mayor and Council,

Please read today's article in the Province.

<http://www.theprovince.com/daphne+bramham+seriously+property+increase+deal+with+fentanyl+crisis/12499344/story.html>

Sent from my iPhone



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:02:24 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl and bike lanes

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 9:13 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fentanyl and bike lanes

Please stop making life unaffordable in this city! Stop raising our taxes to pay for your pet projects like bike lanes - specifically the 10th avenue one - and taking on the fentanyl 'crisis'.

Divert money from Pt Grey Road if you need to. Stop the 10th avenue debacle which will affect those who are ill and need to be able to access medical care. Stop spending our money with total disregard for the taxpayers.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:34:42 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl and taxes

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:01 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fentanyl and taxes

While I am somewhat sympathetic to those suffering overdoses, I am vehemently opposed to a new civic tax to resolve this issue. Feel free to work with provincial and federal authorities to develop a plan on this issue but do not add a new tax on top of the already heavy taxation that Vancouver property owners bear.

I say "somewhat" sympathetic because these are people who are ingesting illegal drugs voluntarily and I question the duty of care they are owed for continuously pushing the boundaries of available emergency care to keep them from killing themselves.

Thanks for listening.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone



From: "Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/12/2016 1:58:01 PM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl crisis funding a bad idea

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)  
Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2016 3:08 PM  
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
Subject: Fentanyl crisis funding a bad idea

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillors,

In my view, taxing Vancouver property owners to fund the current drug emergency response will not solve any core problems, and should not be considered.

Simply put, if we fund heroic Lazarus efforts to revive people who have allowed themselves to be addicted, we help normalize the behaviour in the eyes of young people who are still in a position to say "no" to choices that will take them on this destructive path.

The results we're seeing on the streets are truly horrific, and pull at our humanity to do something ...anything, that will help. However, as with many societal issues we face, real leadership means confronting core issues which produce the outcomes that cause harm and regularly drain our resources.

The current crisis has been labelled a "medical crisis". It is not, fundamentally. It's a symptom of a much larger societal problem, promulgated by many aspects of our modern life, including a culture of willful ignorance that encourages young people to engage in self destructive activities for short term social gain.

Our society is effectively being led by self interested entrepreneurs who present cotton candy satisfactions, and who cultivate insatiable thirst for them. It's complex, and not all of it is bad. However, our elected leaders continually fail to keep up with these challenges, missing opportunities to provide genuine insight and actions that could address core problems rather than the more obvious symptoms.

The Fentanyl crisis is such an opportunity. Tax funding for our stressed First Responders may seem beneficial today. It undoubtedly would help deal with the current symptoms. But the disease will remain, and will grow unchecked unless we invoke real leadership to counter the realities that are causing it. Those realities are larger than the city of Vancouver can address alone, but some of the leadership can come from here.

Are you up to the challenge of becoming much more than a fiscal mayor?

Sincerely,

s.22(1)  
Vancouver  
s.22(1)

Cheers,

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 4:44:04 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl forum

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 3:55 PM

**To:** Robertson, Gregor; Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Fentanyl forum

How can you stage a public forum on this issue and not invite one person from the RECOVERY community to your panel?

You really are appallingly ignorant, which in this matter makes you dangerous.

You keep turning to all of the usual suspects and expect new answers. This is remarkably like addiction.

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:39:03 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl levy

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:36 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fentanyl levy

Mayor and City Council,

The Provincial and Federal governments are responsible for dealing with the fentanyl crisis.

For the city of Vancouver to consider imposing a 0.5% property tax with the hope that taxpayers will believe that this will go towards dealing with this crisis is a stretch of the imagination. Why not disclose that this is an attempt to stealthily increase the proposed 3.4% increase in property taxes without appearing to do so.

Since the city has no plan in place on how to deal with the crisis, let the provincial and federal governments do what needs to be done. You cannot take credit for the two recent overdose prevention sites opened in the DTE or for the several others promised.

You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. This person is not fooled.

s.22(1)

Vancouver BC



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:59:31 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Saturday, December 10, 2016 8:52 PM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Fentanyl Tax

Dear Mayor and Council

I have heard in the media of your proposed increase in property taxes to fund some kind of intervention in the burgeoning hobby of killing oneself with fentanyl. Perhaps you have not heard that there is a crisis in the affordability of housing in Vancouver, and that the tax burden contributes to that affordability? I do not believe that the City should be in the health care business, and I do not believe that my taxes should be directed to trying to rescue people who have pursued a very dangerous lifestyle. If you are raising taxes for a special hobby, please do it in conjunction with an election campaign. You might find that people will pay a bit more for early childhood care or for accessibility resources for seniors. If you think that fentanyl is the big issue for the City and its electors, bet your job on it.

Thank you

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:56:15 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2016 10:49 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fentanyl Tax

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am totally opposed to the last minute .5% proposed tax increase for the Fentanyl crisis. Health care is not within the city's jurisdiction. This is something that both the federal and provincial government should be addressing. As it is the proposed tax increase of 3.4% and then 1.2% for fees is a 4.6% increase with the additional .5% it would put the increase to 5.1%. Canada's rate of inflation is 1.5% this new increase would be over 3 times the rate of inflation. Vancouver is already a very expensive city to live in. Vision Vancouver is making it harder and harder for citizens to afford to stay in the city.

Please do not add an additional .5% tax burden to an already over taxed and under serviced population.

s.22(1)

Home Owner



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/14/2016 9:49:38 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl Tax - SHAME ON YOU

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 8:37 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Fentanyl TAX - SHAME ON YOU

As an owner in Vancouver I am appalled about the new approved tax hike to fight the fentanyl crisis. Why as I being held responsible for people who choose to do drugs ? Let them overdose!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I am not paying for their recreational drug use mistakes

s.22(1)

Vancouver

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:03:21 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Fentanyl tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2016 11:26 AM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Fentanyl tax

Mr. Mayor and all council,

You speak out of both sides of your mouth! I do not give your voter base much credit for knowing how everything in government is interconnected but the rest of us are not imbeciles.

Robertson always points the finger at other levels of government instead of critically examining his own turf. You have grown city hall, spent ad hoc on your self absorbed interests, whine constantly about the unaffordability of living in Vancouver, low rental stock, set up costly committees to examine things that are simple common sense and none of this has anything to do with population growth or inflation.

Ever increasing property taxes help to make Vancouver unaffordable also. Rents have to go up and incomes do not. Add the stress of the 'sharing economy' and corporate and income tax reductions in the US and you have a formula for hard times. You have squandered our taxes for all the time you have been in power rather than being prudent and holding back spending.

Reduce your budget AND find the money to pay for extra help with the drug problem. Skip the guilt trip!

The increase that you already have tabled is far too much. How dare you ask for more!

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:38:12 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Homeowner tax for fentanyl/addiction crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:19 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: FW: Homeowner tax for fentanyl/addiction crisis

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: December-09-16 5:18 PM

To: s.22(1)

Subject: Homeowner tax for fentanyl/addiction crisis

I agreed with your column and was surprised the Sun allowed it to be printed as usually only the hand wringing stories about drugs which remove all responsibility from addicts/pushers appear .

Why doesn't our "green" mayor work with provincial and federal levels to implement a tax on all container and mail goods coming from China? Since the Chinese are the main exporters of fentanyl and carfentanyl ( some villages have been converted entirely to the production of these synthetic drugs) which sneak into our ports and mail HIDDEN IN EVERYTHING FROM TEA TO CAR PARTS. A tax of 2 to 5 percent of the value of the shipment would go a long way in providing treatment for addicts.

Prolonging a destructive addiction by providing a so called safe site to shoot up is like putting your finger in the dyke! Treatment is needed for those who still have hope of recovery but for those who are basically at a palliative stage and have basically fried their brains with no hope of recovery; just give them the drugs. The Netherlands and Switzerland provide the best heroin in Europe to long term addicts and have found that crime and dysfunction have all but disappeared. Allowing addicts to shoot up with drugs that could kill is hypocritical; the cost of theft; courts; health care; social workers not to mention the destruction of family members and the community is totally unnecessary and ridiculous. You save someone at great expense and stress to all involved only to have the same person overdose the next day!?

This has become a sore point with many people and I must say I was surprised to hear from my neighbors who have no sympathy at all for addicts and wonder why hard working law abiding people have to be burdened with yet another tax that will allow addicts to continue with destructive behavior?

It appears that this issue is another story that the media covers with only one point of view. s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/13/2016 2:23:05 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Increased Property Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 11:37 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Increased Property Tax

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council:

Please do not increase property taxes for the Fentanyl crisis.

I believe this sets a bad precedent as this is a healthcare issue and therefore should be funded through the Provincial taxes we already pay for Healthcare in BC. We should not be paying 'twice' - use the funds we already provide and work with the Provincial Health Authority.

This scheme is an 'easy way out' vs. working it out.

Sincere regards,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:45:39 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Levy on import containers for fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 2:27 PM

To: [sunletters@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:sunletters@vancouver.sun.com)

Subject: Levy on import containers for fentanyl crisis

Letters Editor

**The Vancouver Sun**

Vancouver, BC

Dear Editor

Re: "***Tax hike for fentanyl crisis is political slight of hand***", Daphne Bramham's column, Dec. 9.

News reports advise that the source of the fentanyl is China.

Rather than penalizing hapless homeowners, I suggest that a small levy should be applied to each marine and air container arriving in British Columbia from China. I'm confident that several million dollars annually could be garnered to support overdose recovery services, drug addiction treatment, and drug abuse prevention.

Another source of revenue for these services should be the civil forfeiture of property of the drug consignees. The well-reported forfeiture of some high value real estate obtained from the proceeds of crime would send a clear message to drug dealers to not come to British Columbia.

This international criminal activity requires a federal and provincial response – including adequate funding to frontline drug response services at the municipal level. A surcharge on property taxes is not the way to go.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

Port Moody, BC, Canada s.22(1)

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/12/2016 1:54:38 PM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: more property taxes?

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

**From:** s.22(1)  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 10, 2016 8:33 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** more property taxes?

Hello,

1. How much will a .05% tax raise to help address the fentanyl issue? How many lives will this affect?
2. How much money did it cost to put the suicide fence on Burrard bridge? How many lives will that save?
3. Do you see the connection between the above? The poorly thought out money wasted on Burrard bridge is the money that is needed for the fentanyl issue. We do not have bottomless pockets... please spend more wisely and stop being sloppy with our money.

I pay property tax as a home owner and I pay exorbitant property tax as a business owner providing employment for 17 people in Vancouver who also pay property tax in some form. We all contribute and you take, which is not a problem if you people are wise in what you do with our money.

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/7/2016 9:38:31 AM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: no increase in taxes for drug issues!!!!

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of Budgets.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

**From:** s.22(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 8:46 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** no increase in taxes for drug issues!!!!

A knee jerk response from some at our city hall who somehow feel that taxpayers be on the hook for further tax increases to fight the drug issues of fentanyl. An absolute NO from this quarter!!

s.22(1) **vancouver**

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/7/2016 9:42:51 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: no increase in taxes for drug issues!!!!

Additionally, forwarded to the Corporate Management Team, and Meeting Coordinators for Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

---

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 07, 2016 8:46 AM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** no increase in taxes for drug issues!!!!

A knee jerk response from some at our city hall who somehow feel that taxpayers be on the hook for further tax increases to fight the drug issues of fentanyl. An absolute NO from this quarter!!

s.22(1) **vancouver**



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/14/2016 1:21:32 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: No more taxes

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of the City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 11:14 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Cc: Robertson, Gregor

Subject: No more taxes

Good morning,

I was extremely disappointed to hear that council approved a tax hike to help deal with the fentanyl crisis with little public consultation. It is interesting that City can find existing funds with no problem to build your controversial bike lanes, often rebuilding them several times adding even more costs because they were initially designed poorly. And what about the new \$1.5 million you'll hopefully be getting from Onni because of your multi-department and multi-personnel administration breakdown of oversight? Or the essentially useless expensive VPD community safety officer program which does nothing more than block off roads with their vehicles where Police incidents have taken place. But when it comes time for something like this you say you there's no money? I don't believe that for a second. The City gets so much more money than most other cities due to the countless demo/construction permits, money from film, tourism, etc. This increase may seem like a nominal amount to you but this is on top of many many other nominal increases which add to up to a huge increase. This tax is making this once amazing City become even more unaffordable for most Vancouverites. I am very frustrated by the lack of consultation and transparency that seems to be getting worse by this Vision-dominated council and I will definitely not be voting for Vision next election since it doesn't seem they have residents' interests in mind.

Also, the fact you had to pass a motion to make the City more transparent in relation to developers, this on top of a privacy commission report June 23rd saying the City needs to be more transparent, speaks volumes as to how non-transparent this City really is. There is a consistent track record of non-consultation by the City, most recently the Copley Community Orchard modular housing project where members and residents were not consulted. Serious changes need to be made by this City and council, and you should start by looking inward.

Regards,  
A concerned Vancouver resident.

Sent from my iPhone



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:10:19 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: no way! Is Mayor Robertson the new Hillary Clinton, unaware and uncaring about how Vancouvertes feel?

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 8:27 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: no way! Is Mayor Robertson the new Hillary Clinton, unaware and uncaring about how Vancouvertes feel?

I am paying property taxes of \$10,000+ per year. My home insurance is \$3000 per year. **0.5 per cent** seems like a small amount but all the taxes add up and there is only so much a person can take before he/she revolts. It seems council believes that it is easy to raise more money and to spend it without considering who actually earns the money - it is time for council to consider the majority of Vancouver's taxpayers instead of council's pet fringe groups.

Respectfully,

s.22(1)

Vancouver city council is considering charging homeowners an **extra 0.5 per cent in property tax** to pay for more resources to combat the fentanyl overdose crisis.

According to **a report from city staff**, the tax would raise about \$3.5 million next year for the city's contingency fund, which is needed to give staff more flexibility to respond to the public health emergency.

While the report says it is unclear if the fentanyl crisis has peaked or if it will worsen, the skyrocketing number of overdoses has already increased workload and stress for first responders.

"It is unprecedented," said Coun. Geoff Meggs. "It wasn't something we discussed at all a year ago, and now we're losing someone every day."

Paramedics and firefighters work to revive an overdose patient. (Frederic Gagnon/CBC)

The report proposes a new medical unit for the Downtown Eastside, a new community policing centre in Strathcona and additional shelter space.

"The estimated cost of adding, for example, a single medic truck with three firefighters on it would be about \$1.8 to \$1.9 million — that would take almost half of the additional amount we're proposing to put aside," said Meggs.

The report also recommends additional training and mental health support for frontline workers, as well as more staff to help with overdose management at shelters and outreach centres.

Vancouver city council is hearing from speakers today and will vote on the 2017 budget next Tuesday.

### Province 'too slow' says councillor

Aside from municipal resources, Meggs questions the B.C. government's response to what it deemed a public health emergency last April.

"There's an enormous amount of work that has to be done at the provincial level too, and I think we feel the province has been too slow to get up to speed on this," he said.

The latest figures from B.C.'s Ministry of Health break down **\$43 million** spent so far on the fentanyl crisis by all government departments within the province.

This year, approximately two people have died every day in B.C. from accidental drug overdoses, and 62 per cent of those cases are linked to fentanyl.



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:02:33 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Opposed to property tax increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, Corporate Management Team and City Clerk's Meeting Coordinators.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 8:29 AM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Opposed to property tax increase

Dear mayor and city councillors,

I am writing to you to inform you that I am vehemently opposed to any property tax rate, for any purpose, including dealing with the fentanyl crisis.

My property taxes are high enough and they keep increasing with the rise of property values.

I am wondering what the city is doing with the extra revenue resulting from increasing property values?

This is essentially a tax increase in itself.

I am a property owner in Vancouver and I live at s.22(1)  
East.

Thank you,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:04:44 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Please understand our difficulties and listen to our concerns

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 1:26 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Cc: s.22(1)

Subject: Please understand our difficulties and listen to our concerns

Dear Mayor Robertson and council,

We have resided in Vancouver for over thirty years. Lately, we are facing a triple whammy as home assessment skyrockets while fair market value dives and city council prepares to impose an unprecedented 4.6% increase in fees and property tax. Furthermore, there will be an additional 0.5% increase for the fentanyl "contingency" fund. Since when did Vancouver residents give council the mandate to do that?

Secondly, the talk of heritage retention is causing tremendous apprehension for those of us who live in older homes. The fear of severe erosion of our property value is real and prevalent among my peers. We have worked long and hard to acquire our home and the equity is needed to fund our retirement. Home values have already taken a haircut from market uncertainties. There are a lot of baby boomers like myself who are frightened and angry. Heritage retention should be incentivized through tax abatement and should be initiated at the neighbourhood level according to residents' desires. It is wrong for city hall to dictate what each neighbourhood wants in a top down heavy-handed approach.

We are very disappointed and hope that the council representing us will address our needs and concerns that will impact us when we retire.

Please remember that the council's mandate is to serve ALL the people of Vancouver, not just some, like those who prefer bike lanes over other needs of our city. There are certainly other residents who also have an interest in the well being of our city and our concerns MUST be heard and respected. We urge you to be a council for every Vancouver resident and listen to our concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) (Vancouver residents)





From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/14/2016 4:27:26 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: property tax 2017 increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 3:57 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: property tax 2017 increase

Hello City Council,

Your 3.9% increase in property tax is ridiculously over the top. This is far above the inflation rate of roughly 1.7% according to the Bank of Canada. People's wages typically do not go up so much yet you are taking more of our money. Also the intention of 0.5% extra to fight fentanyl is well-intentioned but misguided. Surely you can find 3.5 million from an operating budget of \$1.322 billion. I doubt the 0.5% will be removed anytime soon.

As for the firefighters asking for more money, I urge you to restructure with the province the way 911 calls are responded to. Having both firefighters and ambulances respond to calls is a waste of money. Also with less fires occurring due to better building codes, we don't need as many firefighter halls.

In terms of fiscal management, I'd like to see more money being spent on debt servicing with a long term goal of becoming debt free. Obviously it would take a long time, but the benefits are easy to imagine.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:45:30 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: property tax increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 11:59 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: property tax increase

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please put me on record as being strongly opposed to the .5% property tax increase for addiction services. My husband and I are two years away from retirement, and we are "property rich" and cash poor. Vancouver's property taxes are already very high.

If the City's resources are finite, then it behooves Council to allocate resources equitably. May we suggest that the City allocate some of its emergency reserve on a pop up clinic, to be located in the heartland of the fentanyl problem and supported with reasonable resources and ambulance service. But, it is essential that limits be established on the expenditures there so that the rest of the City's population can be served...the person with a stroke, a heart attack, a motor vehicle accident, or allergic reaction, who needs to go to the hospital in an emergency.

If additional resources are needed for healthcare and addiction services, please approach the Federal and Provincial governments.

thank you.

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/9/2016 9:42:08 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Property tax increase to fight fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 7:55 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Property tax increase to fight fentanyl crisis

Dear Mayor and Council,

I understand you are proposing another property tax increase to create more funds to battle the fentanyl crisis on our streets.

I am strongly opposed to another raise in property tax for this purpose. It seems you think that property owners are "rich" and an endless well of money. You are already raising property taxes to cover the basic city budget. You want us to create and rent out suites in our homes and now you think we need to carry the burden of fighting a health crisis on our streets. Why property owners? This is a national crisis-where is the federal government? The province is responsible for healthcare-where are they?

It is expensive enough to live in Vancouver. Are you trying to get people to move? Young people are leaving the city due to the high costs of living. The rents of all of these suites you are trying to create will go up immediately if you put through a property tax increase.

The fentanyl crisis is just that, a crisis. But kneejerk reactions like this put Vancouverites like myself in an even more difficult position than we are already in. I have worked hard and I'm lucky to own my own home but our property taxes are not the place to go looking for more money at this point. This year we will be paying way more tax than we should be as property values have declined since July when the assessments happened. The city can take that windfall and use some of it to target the fentanyl issue. What about the money from the business licenses for the potshops?

Clearly the current "plan" to deal with drug use, homelessness and mental health has not been working. The downtown Eastside is an international disgrace. We need more subsidized and social housing, more drug rehab and mental health institutions and more enforcement of our drug laws targetting dealers and importers.

However, driving the costs of living even higher for property owners will do more harm than good in the long run. Once you have that money coming in the Province will say that everything is fine now and won't step up. This tax increase also won't be collected until late next year which will also be too late to make the impact that's needed right now with the fentanyl crisis. And it will lead to higher rents.

Mayor and Council should lobby very hard to get emergency funding from the Province and/or the Federal Government. Once this crisis is under control, much more lobbying needs to be done to get other levels of government to meet their responsibilities and provide the necessary funding to tackle the downtown eastside and it's myriad of issues. The people on our streets need proper healthcare and social interventions; neither of which should be paid for solely by property owners.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:45:18 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Property tax increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 10:19 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Property tax increase

3.4% increase is way out of line. Twice inflation. Really?

Now a .5% levy for fentanyl overdoses? Are you kidding? It's a federal tax issue, plus you don't have a decent plan. Plus, since you can't manage the whole city budget within the inflation rate why would we think you can manage a fentanyl program. We all have to live within our own means. The city should to. You are doing a very bad and very expensive job of running this city.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/15/2016 9:30:17 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Property Tax Raise

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 4:51 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Cc: Affleck, George; De Genova, Melissa; Robertson, Gregor

Subject: Property Tax Raise

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am an owner-occupier of a condo, address:

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC  
V6Z 0C5

I would like to voice my extreme dissatisfaction with the increase in property tax of nearly 4% this year, with the additional 0.5% for treatment of the Fentanyl crisis. It is ridiculous with all of the funds coming into the city on a regular basis, that you can not keep to your budget, and find these additional funds elsewhere. I am glad that two of the councilors copied on this email had the sense to vote against this wasted increase.

The hypocrisy from Mayor Robertson and his loyal following of 'Vision' councilors on unaffordability is laughable. If you truly were concerned about the issue, you would not increase already high property taxes. In addition, you would not continue to charge exorbitant CAC's and CDC's on new home purchases, which we all know is passed on to the end user, resulting in an increase of roughly 30% of the value of a new home. I for instance purchased my new condo a few years ago, which over \$100,000 was attributed to the CAC, in addition to the roughly \$2,000 annually you receive in Property taxes, from me alone.

The Mayor can not keep relying on his piggybank of new homeowners to fund their lavish new programs, and meanwhile try and dump all of the problems on the Premier of BC. While the current situation with fentanyl is unfortunate, it is also unfortunate to pass this cost on to homeowners, most of whom stay away from dangerous hard drugs in the first place. The renters of this city won't pay a dime for this increase. It should come through existing funds, and focused on prevention and enforcement.

As a law abiding citizen I will of course pay this increase in taxes, however I will share my dissatisfaction with others, and bide our time until the next municipal election, when we can look to vote in a new responsible mayor and council that is not willing to keep taxing hardworking homeowners instead of controlling their costs.

Regards,

s.22(1)

--

s.22(1)





From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/12/2016 4:50:29 PM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: Property Taxes

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)  
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2016 4:05 PM  
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
Cc: s.22(1)  
Subject: Property Taxes

Dear Mayor and Council

Let me start by saying my wife and I are retired and luckily we looked after our financial affairs sufficiently well that your proposed % increase to this year's property taxes and your additional 0.5% for the "fentanyl fund" will not present an insurmountable hardship. Nevertheless it is unacceptable and more importantly, in the long run, unsustainable. Long gone are the days when you folks treat the public purse like it was "your money". If it was "your money" you would not be so cavalier with it. Do you run your own households like this? If you do then your income must be increasing at rates far greater than the, at best, cost of living increases that most pensioners and the vast majority of every day workers are likely to receive. Your proposed property tax increase, as you know, goes beyond these levels as they often have in the past. It does not take a doctorate in economics to know that this is not sustainable and over time will drive more and more people in to unacceptable financial situations.

I suspect or at least hope that you have had these kinds of discussions among yourselves yet you still come to the conclusion that you can justify asking most people to pay more than they can afford. When individual households make decisions on discretionary day to day expenses and make capital spending decisions they do that within the confines of their income capacity and occasionally their borrowing capacity with the latter having to ultimately be paid for from the former. They do not have any other choices and certainly can't go to their employer or former employer to ask for more money to sustain an increased appetite to spend.

No, if necessary, they would look at their discretionary spending and decide what they can avoid or defer in order to pay for the new item(s) that are now needed. In other words they have to re-prioritize how they will spend their "limited" resources. No doubt there would be family arguments about priorities and at the end of the day not everyone would be happy about how their scarce resources will be spent but they are forced to do this. Of course that is what you folks should be doing when you decide how to spend "our money". For goodness sakes send the budget back to the civil servants and tell them that what they propose to do with our money is not acceptable. Tell them that they need to look at all the variable discretionary spending and come back to you with alternative choices as to how you can keep budgeted expenses within the rate of inflation. You can then review the alternatives and have your arguments about which of the variable discretionary expenses are the most important for this fiscal year. You will then, I suspect, have a financial document that is acceptable to the majority of Vancouver property tax payers.

I am guessing some in your midst will say that I have oversimplified the situation, that I don't understand the "big picture" and that you cannot run a city like you run a household. If so, you would be wrong, because it is really that simple. Oh yes, the budget is much bigger and more complex but you have the people power to do precisely what families need to do with their finances. If you can't afford it then don't buy it! If it is that important then figure out how you can afford it and that means making sacrifices just like at home. It can be done and it is your job to do it.

Regards  
s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:37:36 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Proposed tax increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 5:17 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Proposed tax increase

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I have heard of your proposal to levy a tax to be used to address health care issues (in this case, the fentanyl crisis). Please note that, while I agree that the current situation calls for government action, such an initiative must come from the provincial and/or federal levels. It is not the responsibility of municipal or city governments. You do not have a mandate from the electorate for such a measure.

Rather, it is incumbent upon you to persuade higher levels of government to take appropriate action.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)

Vancouver

Sent from my iPhone.

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 11:09:45 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: proposed tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 10:56 AM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Cc:** s.22(1)

**Subject:** proposed tax

Dear Members of the Council,

My wife and I are opposed to the property tax increase of 0.5% to cover the rising costs associated with the Fentanyl drug overdose problem on the Downtown Eastside. We are all born equal, naked and fresh to build our lives by making the right decisions. A few years ago I myself needed help with my thinking, but when I reached out it took 6 months to get a chance to sit with someone to talk. By then I healed myself, once again by making the right decisions. I never reached for alcohol or illegal street drugs to solve my issues. What I would support is the elimination of drug dealers by putting them in jail for ever. They are the root of the problem. So please note that our paycheques do not increase at the same level that municipal taxes do, so give it a break. STOP taking from the rich and giving to the poor. We are trying to stay positive and when we have less and less disposable income we the middle class begin to have mental issues about overall happiness.

Regards,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:31:43 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Tax Grab !

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 4:54 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Tax Grab !

The Fentanyl crisis is being used as a smokescreen to reward Visions friends in the Firefighter's Union with more members. They have no plan to deal with his problem others than adding union dues paying firefighters who shouldn't be dealing with this anyway.

This 4% property tax increase is unconscionable and needs to be stopped. We homeowners are like Visions ATM machine. They can't find cuts in they're massively inflated budget to deal with ? The real problem is that the Province won't give the Ambulance service the resources they need. Firefighters aren't the proper responders in they crisis, ambulances are.

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/9/2016 1:11:42 PM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: Tax grab

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** s.22(1)  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2016 12:11 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Tax grab

The proposed tax increase for home owners and the 0.5% special levy for the fentanyl "crisis" are naked tax grabs. I agree completely with Daphne Bramham's comments in today's Vancouver Sun.

Knock it off. We are taxed to the max already.

s.22(1)

Vancouver



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:42:38 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Tax increase for fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 10:35 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; McKearney, John

Cc: IAFF Local 18 (VFRS Union Office)

Subject: Tax increase for fentanyl crisis

We (myself and my partner) support the tax increase being proposed to deal with the current crisis for fentanyl laced drugs in Vancouver. This seems only the tip of the iceberg in what could happen if we get even more synthetic narcotics being produced.

Fire Fighters, ambulance paramedics, police and, social service workers are all feeling the effects of this crisis. We need to support them!

The DTES firehall #2 has always been at the forefront in having to deal with the effects of the drug and mental health policies of the past and continue to work tirelessly but, they cannot do this alone. As Vancouver residents we need to stand up and support them in their struggle to help save people's lives, our fellow Vancouver citizens.

Thank you for your support.

s.22(1)

Vancouver BC

s.22(1)

From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:55:15 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Tax increase

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2016 9:17 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Tax increase

I would like to know why you think home owners should fund the fentanyl problem? If it is a city or provincial problem, all residents should be paying.

Why not tax renters? Why not tax consumers? Why not look to our senior governments that have the resources to do something.

I am fed up with the way our city is running just about everything.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPad



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 1:40:18 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: tax increases must stop

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 09, 2016 6:15 PM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: tax increases must stop

Dear Mayor and Council,

I do not understand how elected officials who are representing us think it is OK to solve all the City's problems by raising taxes for ratepayers.

The latest suggestion to solve Vancouver's fentanyl crisis with a tax levy on property owners is really quite ludicrous. For years municipalities have complained about the provincial and federal governments down-loading the tax burden and here we have the City volunteering to take on more. With all respect and sympathy to those poor souls impacted by this crisis, I really fail to see why Council would even consider this option.

First the proposed amount is a drop in the bucket compared to what experts believe it will take to solve this issue. Second how on earth does Council believe that City staff are qualified to resolve this issue when professionals in the field are struggling to find a solution? Third, why is Council getting involved in an area that is clearly the jurisdiction of the Provincial and Federal Governments? Agreed, it is necessary for the City to collaborate with these other government Agencies to ensure the City's own programs and services are not at odds with these Agencies' strategy; however this does not require additional funding and is part of core inter-governmental co-operation activities at the City.

Regarding the general tax increased of 3.5%, I struggle to understand how this can be justified. This far exceeds inflation and the increase in cost of living.

My taxes have increased 5 fold since I moved back to Vancouver s.22(1) after being away for many years. I recognize that my property value has increased but based on my knowledge in rate setting and cost of service principles from 35 years of dealing with public utility rate-making, this should only be affecting the allocation of taxes payable. I am quite prepared to pay my share. But when all property values in Vancouver are increasing, this helps to keeps my increases in check unless my property is the only one increasing. When we are adding more residential units, this actually decreases my share as there are more owners to share the burden. When I look at the costs areas for municipalities, many are capped for the City as its geography is not increasing and it's population is only growing modestly relative to surrounding cities. I find the increases in taxes incomprehensible.

I have recently retired and am now facing the prospect of being taxed out of my home. I find your solution of deferring my taxes until I sell my home particularly abhorrent. In effect, you, as Council and Administration at the City, are saying I should go into debt in order to be able to pay my property taxes because you are not able to effectively manage City budgets within reasonable limits.

Perhaps you are all too young to remember that there was tax revolt in California in the late '70s on this very issue.

Fix the cavalier spending and stop raising taxes. I look forward to hearing how you are going to do this.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/12/2016 2:03:51 PM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, and Vancouver City Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2016 12:31 PM

**To:** Robertson, Gregor; Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Tax

Honourable Mayor,

We Vancouver residents are facing a triple whammy as home assessment skyrockets while fair market value dives and city council prepares to impose an unprecedented 4.6% increase in fees and property tax. To add insult to injury, the idea is being floated for an additional 0.5% increase for the fentanyl "contingency" fund. Since when did Vancouver residents give council the mandate to do that?

The talk of heritage retention is causing tremendous apprehension for those of us who live in older homes. The fear of severe erosion of our property value is real and prevalent among my peers. We have worked long and hard to acquire our home and the equity is needed to fund our retirement. Home values have already taken a haircut from market uncertainties since the introduction of empty home tax, foreign buyers tax, stringent CMHC requirements and rising interest rates. There are a lot of baby boomers like myself who are frightened and angry. Heritage retention should be incentivized through tax abatement and should be initiated at the neighbourhood level according to residents' desires. It is wrong for city hall to dictate what each neighbourhood wants in a top down heavy-handed approach. Throughout Vancouver, the anger is palpable over the tyrannical rule of the Vision dominated council whose wanton disregard of citizens' outcry has been the hallmark of their legacy.

I have seen the level of city services decline while my taxes are going up. I am reminded every time I look out my window and see the messy streets with all the leaves being turned into a brown slush. It is dangerous for people to walk on this slippery mess. Where are the street cleaners that used to come every fall to clean up the city's leaves? Funds are being diverted to build bike lanes in stead of providing these fundamental services. It is unacceptable for the city to raise our taxes, spend \$17.4M on bike lanes and ignore our basic needs.

Don't forget, council's mandate is to serve ALL the people of Vancouver, not just those who happen to reside in or near Grandview-Woodland. Residents who live in other neighbourhoods also have an interest in the well being of their city and their concerns MUST be heard and respected. I urge you to be a council for every Vancouver resident and listen to our concerns.

s.22(1)

Vancouver



From: "Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>  
To: s.22(1)  
Date: 12/7/2016 5:10:07 PM  
Subject: HPRM: RE: Taxes for fentanyl.

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, Corporate Management Team, and Meeting Coordinator's for Council.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)  
Sent: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 5:02 PM  
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
Subject: Taxes for fentanyl.

Dear Mayor Robertson and City Council Members:

It is with great dismay but understanding- not agreement- I read today of a proposal to increase property taxes by 0.5% to deal with the city's drug addiction and opiate overdose crisis. Our firefighters and first responders definitely need resources and help on the frontlines as they are the ones who get called every time an addict overdoses.

s.22(1) I totally understand that addiction is a disorder of the brain ( not a disease same as an infection) and that addicts- eps opiate addicts without treatment are internally urged to keep using even after an OD. We have not enough treatment beds . we have too few docs trained in opiate replacement therapy- a cornerstone of opiate recovery . And our firefighters / policemen and shelter workers are all exhausted..

I also know s.22(1) that our entire family resources went to that disorder rather than the family- a model for taxes being hijacked by addiction which could be better spent on children's program, parks schools etc.

Throwing good money after bad is never wise. So how could we make a dent in the issue?

- 1.. Identify the hot spots of OD's. Mobilize Team Naloxone 'Captains' which can be recovered addicts, 12 step program members or EMT's. They will need Naloxone use modules and basic CPR. Deploy them to all the hotspots. Have mini-Safe sites there- i.e. Safe Injections sites - without the requirement of an RN etc- as too expensive.
2. Arrest all addicts and make them spend 48=72 hrs plus in jail. Crowded jails at first will occur. . Condition for release- and here is the caveat- will be volunteering for shifts at the safe mini sites.
3. Have attending docs in the jails ready and able to prescribe opiate replacement therapy for them. Opiate addicts do much better with buprenorphine/naloxone therapy than cold turkey. Reach out to community partners i.e. Strathcona Mental Health, St Paul's Hospital and the College of Physicians and Surgeons as stakeholders. Get buy-in.
4. I left out 12 step recovery groups but these are very helpful/ Most preach abstinence which doesn't really work as well for opiate addicts. And they are our target population.
5. We need to have compassion and also. - not be held hostage to as Gabor Mate has said " The Realm of Hungry Ghosts" lest our resources be devoured. We need a plan to minimize the impact and facilitate recovery of addicted members of our city within the bounds of our mandated healthcare laws. Reach out ( educate ) , give safety Mini In-Sites) , resuscitate ( teach recovered and even still using addicts to use naloxone and CPR) , recover Weird- jail and suboxone) and reconcile.

The recovery beds are up to the province and federal govt. But I think we have many talented people here in this city who can make a dent in this drain on our resources ( sounds horrible but there we are) so we can stabilize addicts and stop what is likely to be much worse with elephant tranquilizers on the street.

The other arms are legal- an all out effort to stop drug dealers and manufacturers and drugs that make it across the border; and long term treatment beds. We particularly need them for adolescents.

Ok off my soapbox. Let me know if I can be of any service here..

Sincerely

s.22(1)

s.22(1)

Vancouver BC  
V6B 0C7

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:01:55 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: The 0.5% Fentanyl Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, Corporate Management Team and City Clerk's Meeting Coordinators.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 9:15 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: The 0.5% Fentanyl Tax

I am furious at the proposal that Vancouver homeowners should pay an additional 0.5% to deal with the fentanyl crisis. Why should law-abiding property owners who already face a substantial tax increase be expected to take on this burden when virtually nothing is being done to stem the flow of these drugs into our community at the source. I was on the Downtown Eastside last week and witnessed open drug dealing yet again. In one instance it was taking place shamelessly right in the middle of the sidewalk to the point that the dealer and addict had to step aside to let me pass. Why aren't the dealers in jail? Why should we be penalized in order to support people who will not take responsibility for their own lives? Addicts are now expecting to be saved. One was found with three empty Naloxone vials next to him when help arrived for the fourth time. Need I remind you that you once floated the harebrained idea of paying someone to help addicts cross the road. All you are doing is throwing more and more money at the DTES with no results. I have no confidence that this money will not simply end up in the black hole of city operations. It is just another cash grab. People are fed up and are suffering from compassion fatigue when it comes to this issue.

I am a product of the sixties and blame my generation for making drugtaking socially acceptable. But guilt will only take me so far.

I have been eligible to defer my property taxes for a number of years. It has never occurred to me to do so. I will be deferring them as of this year. And I won't be voting Vision.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/14/2016 9:42:19 AM

Subject: HPRM: RE: Vancouver approves 3.9-per-cent property-tax hike that includes spending on fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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From: s.22(1)

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 5:32 PM

To: Robertson, Gregor

Cc: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Vancouver approves 3.9-per-cent property-tax hike that includes spending on fentanyl crisis

Mr. Robertson;

I acknowledge that there is a fentanyl crisis in Vancouver. However, why should we tax payers continue to pay more and more in taxes and the local government continues to waste taxpayers dollars without proper public consultation? Why not place a moratorium on creating more bike lanes and allocate a percentage of taxpayers hard earned dollars towards this crisis.

This increase in taxes will not do a thing for this fentanyl, crisis. I am friends with first responders in the city who have told me stories of addicts overdosing in the Downtown Eastside and the next day or so, they get called and low and behold, they are responding to the same person. The fentanyl crisis is a global concern and I as a taxpayer, shouldn't be on the hook for treating addicts. All levels of government must come together and work out a solution as to how to attack this problem. As long as the laws in Canada are lax towards drug dealers, more and more drugs will come into the city. Our laws are too liberal and our local as well as federal governments are too liberal as well.

Addiction in our society is a problem. We need to establish resources for an addict to recover from addiction. Rather than creating more safe injection sites, we need to have more rehabilitation programs and education available to addicts. More outreach workers need to be hired in order to help people in vulnerable communities.

Your increase in taxes are only a bandaid solution to a bigger problem. So, rather than trying to look like superheroes combatting the fentanyl drug crisis in Vancouver, work with higher levels of government to create a solution. Involve residents and taxpayers in proper public consultation before voting on increasing taxes.

Most taxpayers are struggling to keep their families afloat. More taxes will result in families having to cut back on basic essentials!

Regards,





September 1st, 2016

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC s.22(1)

Mayor and Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson and City Councillors,

I am writing to you to express my dismay at the ongoing housing crisis and lack of effective regulation and planning with regards to development in Vancouver.

I would like to acknowledge that this is a complex issue and I am in full support of what the City of Vancouver has done to try and secure social housing units, but the crisis is at the point where serious intergovernmental action is required.

I have been working as a mental health worker in supported housing for nearly 10 years in Vancouver and have seen many of my clients, friends and community suffer as a result of renovictions, skyrocketing rents and unbridled development, which appears to serve only the wealthiest members of society.

I have written e-mails and letters before to you, my MLA and my MP, yet I often hear back that the real solution lies with a different level of government. My sincere belief is that the responsibility lies with all levels of government and that an intergovernmental task force to address housing affordability and social development would be the best way to resolve this crisis. In the meantime, I hope that you will do whatever you can to address the following major issues:

- The severe lack of affordable housing in Vancouver.
- The prevalence of poorly regulated domestic practices that are intensifying the crisis such as renovictions leading to exorbitant rent increases, house flipping and Airbnb.
- The continued misuse of housing and real estate as effective currency, which is damaging to both people who need housing and social amenities, and to businesses who need affordable buildings in which to operate.
- The lack of regulation and long term planning with regards to an affordable, sustainable and diverse city for all. A good example of this failure in Vancouver is the fact that a billionaire like Chip Wilson can buy virtually an entire city block for his exclusive capitalist project, without the local community having any real say in the matter.

Please ensure that my letter is read by the entire team and that I receive a genuine, considered response to the specific points I raise.

Yours Sincerely,

s.22(1)

From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/8/2016 5:28:45 PM

Subject: Property tax increase for drug use alleviation

Dear Mr. Robertson,

I am a former resident of Vancouver, and very glad to be so, especially now. The idea of raising property taxes to pay for overdose treatment is ignorant, appalling and insulting to your constituency. Having cut social services to the bone, the province apparently expects you to ante up the difference and you and your council seem quite happy to comply. This is called "enabling"-addiction is a choice. I used to think that alleviating this misery was a public health concern and still do, to some extent, but to expect the residents of Vancouver to pay for others' poor choices is reprehensible.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)  
["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)  
["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)  
["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)  
["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)  
["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Louie, Raymond" <Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca)  
["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)  
["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)  
["Stevenson, Tim" <Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca)  
["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/11/2016 4:39:48 PM

Subject: Property Tax Increase to Address Fentanyl Crisis

Dear Mayor Robertson and Councillor,

I am writing as a Vancouver (town)homeowner to say that I completely support raising property taxes to address the fentanyl crisis. While of course I would want Vancouver to generally find efficiencies within its existing budget, this is not the time for such penny pinching or delays. We need to spend the money right away. The crisis is intolerable, and Vancouver homeowners could not see a better use of our tax dollars than to save the lives of our neighbors. Please increase taxes. Fund the 24/7 medic unit. Increase supports to front line workers. Increase the number of support workers. Provide additional education programs. Do everything you can. I'm happy to pay.

Yours truly,

s.22(1)

Vancouver, BC

From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/7/2016 4:11:19 PM

Subject: PROPOSED TAX HIKE TO COMBAT THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Dear Mr. Mayor;

I think that council's proposal to hike property taxes to combat this issue is a cash grab and will most likely, not even reach the agencies and resources to help addicts.

I as a taxpayer, do not want to contribute a dime to this. Most people are scraping by trying to make ends meet and with another 4% increase to their property taxes, that means 4% less towards other necessities in their lives.

Instead of wasting taxpayers dollars on bike lanes, put the money aside and allocate it to where it is needed the most. This issue should be voted on by way of a public referendum rather than pushing it through without Public Consultation. This council under your slate has wasted millions of taxpayers dollars where it could of been used for social housing, shelters and to help these people.

Awareness of the problem is key. Addiction is powerful and unfortunately, if someone ingests fentanyl and overdoses or dies, then so be it.

I am tired of Vision Vancouver's platform and if you haven't guessed it by now, I never did nor will I ever support your government.



From: "Van Mayor's Office" <vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca>

To: s.22(1)

Date: 10/28/2016 1:41:43 PM

Subject: RE: City of Vancouver Concerns

Hello s.22(1)

On behalf of Mayor Robertson, thank you for your message.

Mayor Robertson takes this issue very seriously, and has repeatedly spoken out about the need for action on drug addiction and overdoses in our community. While the VPD works to enforce drug laws in Vancouver, history and research have shown that policing alone is not a solution. That's why the City also focuses on harm reduction, prevention, and treatment. You can learn more at [vancouver.ca/fourpillars](http://vancouver.ca/fourpillars).

Other actions Mayor Robertson has taken include:

- ☐ Creating the [Mayor's Task Force on Mental Health and Addictions](#)
- ☐ Repeatedly speaking out in [support of supervised injection sites](#)
- ☐ Supporting a City grant of \$1,000,000 towards a proposed [Mental Health Hub at St. Paul's](#)
- ☐ Calling for urgently-needed housing and health investments to help those with mental illness

It's also important to recognize that health care, housing, and drug regulations fall under the jurisdiction of the provincial and federal governments, and we need all levels of government to work together to address this issue. We encourage you to write to your provincial and federal elected representatives to share your concerns with them as well.

Thank you again for writing to Mayor Robertson.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office Team

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 7:33 AM

To: Robertson, Gregor

Subject: City of Vancouver Concerns

To Mayor Gregor Robertson,

I am writing you to express my concern about the open drug use in Vancouver. It is getting significantly worse and I feel it is becoming not only unsafe but unsanitary for people in Vancouver. On almost a daily basis I witness drug use, in the open, on Burrard and Granville street at the least. People openly use heroin and smoke Crack among other things openly and in places where there are children.

All of these drugs fall under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and are not legal, so why are more and more people openly using them on our streets? Finding needles on the ground is not something that should be normal here in Vancouver and I hope you'll agree. On a daily basis I witness something less than pleasant, get harassed for money by aggressive people and feel unsafe walking the streets by myself at night. People who are using in conjunction with mental illness are extremely unpredictable, posing a safety hazard.

I have been out with the police on the Downtown Eastside, volunteered with the police and I have seen it first hand. I fear that without any rules, enforcement, or a plan of action this situation will only be getting worse. Unfortunately addicts have little regard for others and steal, leave mess (garbage) everywhere, and leave drug paraphernalia with little regard for others who may step on it.

I am a daily transit user where I also frequently experience harassment and see tourists falling victim to scams by addicts who sell them expired tickets. There are an alarming number of people who don't pay for transit who either just walk on the bus, or follow right behind you at the skytrain gate and sneak in.

The amount of people not paying for transit is beyond what you would expect. It feels unfair that so many people pay for transit (especially those who are low income) and then many people still walk on the bus or skytrain and don't pay. It is an insult to those who do pay so that others can ride for free. Out of 7 people who got on the bus one morning, 4 didn't pay.

I am asking you to please really look at this situation. I know there will always be mental illness and drug use, however there must be a point when this will have rules or stop. It's not fair, not safe and not sanitary for people. Things are getting out of control and you, as well as the rest of the city should be concerned about the potential outcome.

Regards,

s.22(1)



From: ["Van Mayor's Office" <vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca>](mailto:vanmayorsoffice@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 11/25/2016 3:24:17 PM

Subject: RE: Vancouver drug use

Dear s.22(1)

On behalf of Mayor Robertson, thank you for your message.

Communities around BC are in the middle of an overdose crisis and Mayor Robertson has been an outspoken advocate on this issue. Mayor Robertson has met with our provincial and federal health ministers, and together they are working to deploy more resources.

If you have information on criminal activity, please contact the Vancouver Police Department at (604) 717-3321 to share your information with them.

Sincerely,  
Vancouver Mayor's Office

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 23, 2016 6:44 AM

**To:** Robertson, Gregor

**Subject:** Vancouver drug use

Good morning.

I am very concerned for all people when it comes to drug use. As a person who has used many different drugs in different ways i have known the grip they can have and the comfort of the lifestyle that keeps people coming back. Ive seen lots. I know some of these main drug dealers and i know they are unstoppable at their sales. This is a fact. They operate all day and all night just a quick phone call away and they will be there shortly. I have a way to help get the problem and the monitoring process immediately! It will also help lead police to higher level dealers. ( but not all the police can be trusted) and i want to speak with someone to discuss this. I am smart and strong mentally and have been able to walk away from addictions, but not everyone has this attribute. So i want to help before our freedoms fall flat on their face.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you.

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: premier <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

Date: 12/13/2016 11:45:00 PM

Subject: Re: drug addicts and fentanyl

Good afternoon,

I want to thank you for the overview letters of what has been done so far and in the near future for the addicts. It is greatly appreciated.

However all I can see is how much money is being spent on coming up with little fixes and it is not enough. The fentanyl crisis is going to continue to be a problem until the dealers learn to not poison the drugs or find a way to improve the quality control.

The dealers need to be taken off the street with a major arrest effort. The laying charges of attempted mass murder, or something similar, is the only way to get the message across that they must stop this madness of selling "junk" onto the streets before our children are harmed. In the past, I have heard that the police did not like arresting the "little" guy. They only wanted the big guy. The big guys need the "little" guys dealing the poisoned drugs. We need to stop the supply chain getting to the addict. It is time to stop this insanity and come to grips with the reality. Our past efforts for the last 100 years is not working.

The addicts on the streets are just as much our children as our own flesh and blood. They need help to protect themselves because when they are looking for the next fix, they are going to take the chance that this batch may not have fentanyl in it. As one addict in Surrey recently put it, shooting up these days is like playing Russian roulette with a semi-automatic instead of a revolver. At least, lets give them back the revolver by getting the fentanyl off the streets.

It is time for a major push back on the scale of a Duterte if required.

As far as I can tell, our current system is geared towards keeping the addict alive and on the streets to allow them to continue to buy drugs and get high. We even pay them monthly to do it. We are taking our hard earned money and giving it to the government through taxes, so that they can then hand money to the addicts who will give it to the drug lords in BC and elsewhere. It is time to use that support money instead to arrest and prosecute and jail the dealers. The street needs a timeout. dry it out for a few months.

The other alternative and it is probably the most ambitious and controversial, but doable, give the addicts free drugs of their choice. at least they will have clean drugs of a known potency.

it will cut down the petty crime for money to buy the drugs. It will keep the addict safe and alive. It will reduce the emergency situations. it will reduce my tax bill.

Thank you for reading this letter.

s.22(1)

Vancouver and Surrey are the only major cities in the world where you will something like Hastings& Main or 135A street. it is deplorable that we continue to allow this to continue.

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From: "premier" <Premier@gov.bc.ca>

To: s.22(1)

Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 11:22:12 AM

Subject: FW: drug addicts and fentanyl

Hello, s.22(1), and thank you for your email regarding the fentanyl health crisis in British Columbia. We appreciate your taking the time to write on this very difficult issue.

Drug-related overdoses and deaths have become a very serious concern in our province, with too many families losing loved ones. We need to help those in need and stop these preventable tragedies. Our government takes this crisis very seriously and we have taken a number of steps to address this issue. For an overview of the recent measures we have implemented, please consult the following factsheet:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/actions-to-prevent-overdoses-in-bc>



Just this week, government issued a release detailing further response action and additional healthcare supports the province is undertaking. For more information, we recommend you view the news release below:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016HLTH0092-002646>

Thank you again for writing. We hope you find this response helpful.

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**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 8:25 PM

**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX

**Subject:** drug addicts and fentanyl

good afternoon,

I am extremely heart broken and tired of listening and seeing the damage being done to our drug addicted population. It is time for real action.

Other then feeding and trying to shelter these people, the problem is only growing and the un-necessary deaths are growing due to improper intervention

The sight of all of those people, and they are people, who could easily be our sons and daughters, fathers or mothers are being killed and we are doing so little about it except putting on a bandaid and keeping them alive until the next hit.

1) All drug dealers should be "hunted down" and jailed and charged for conspiracy to commit murder.

They are all aware that the drugs they are dealing have a high probability of killing their clients. This is clear planning to murder someone. Manslaughter at a bare minimum.

The police would do something if a child in a school is killed by someone selling poisoned candy, why will they do nothing for poisoned drugs?

2) It is time to recognize that all drug addiction is a mental health problem.

All addicts should be detained and housed in mental facilities for 60 to 90 days.

It is time to transfer the money that is going into the downtown core and change all of the social housing hotels into mental health care facilities.

Most of the money going to the addicts on "welfare wednesday" is going to fund the drug traffickers and dealers. It is time to stop this subsidization of the illicit drug trade.

As a minimum, provide free "clean" drugs to the addicts with known dosages so that the addict is safer.

It is time for the police and our politicians to get off their butts and do something.

Thank you,

s.22(1)

Surrey, BC



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/21/2016 12:49:13 PM

Subject: RE: Taxes and drugs

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's I City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

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**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 21, 2016 10:48 AM

**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; Carr, Adriane

**Subject:** Taxes and drugs

Hello,

I am writing to strenuously object to your sudden increase in property taxes in a misguided attempt to mitigate a problem that is a provincial problem. The current crisis with opioids, and the social problems that may cause, and are certainly associated with them, are health and social services concerns. These fall under the constitutional responsibility of provincial governments. While first responders work for the City, and are no doubt suffering from PTSD - not to mention over-work and lack of resources, the first is a health-care matter, and treatment needs to come from provincial resources, and the second reflects a lack of diligence on the part of Council, since the property taxes coming from densification and the lack of money going to infrastructure to handle increasing population density should provide plenty of money to cover these emergency costs.

It is a point of concern that property values - and tax assessments that accompany them - have left countless people struggling to keep their homes after spending their lives building the community you are presently administering. Meanwhile, developers escape taxes on undeveloped land with the ridiculous policy of allowing them to pay next to nothing if they provide "community gardens" - proven to be polluted and unhealthy sources of food, and dubious additions to either recreation or beautification. How about collecting fair taxes from them, or allowing equitable tax reductions to residential owners who choose to grow vegetables, berries and flowers on their own - not just laying it on others to bear the cost of plants, seeds, fertilizers, etc. like the developers do.

Responses from you in recent media interviews calling objections to this tax increase "asinine"(Robertson) and implying that those who object are heartless (Jang), are insulting manipulative distractions and off-point. You have increased a tax and people object to that. Their objections have nothing to do with the tragedy unfolding in our community related to fentanyl and other drugs.

Your actions are misguided and lazy. Instead of taking an easy way out, you should be using considerable energy reminding the provincial government of their responsibilities. There's an election coming, and you could have leverage in that. There is no public evidence of your doing anything in this regard, and that's disgraceful. There are cogent arguments and constitutional responsibilities involved, and your action in this tax hike facilitates the province's abrogation of its duties under the laws of this land. Grow up and be responsible, or step down.

Meanwhile, I won't hold my breath that this will be a temporary tax hike. It will fatten the coffers, leave developers laughing in their sleeves, and leave the lack of roads and bridges needed to accommodate the burgeoning population worsening.

Please respond with a reply that is not insulting, without red herrings and straw men, and logical and responsible to all owners and residents of Vancouver. We all pay your salaries.

Sincerely,

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: "Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/7/2016 2:54:24 PM

Subject: Tax Levy

There is no public health crisis in Vancouver or any other city in this country. There is a political crisis.

What we have is politicians afraid to call a spade a bloody shovel and deal with the fall out.

This is a healthcare issue restricted to chronic drug users and recreational users who, in spite of all that is going on around them, continue to buy and use street drugs knowing full well that they stand a more than average chance of dying if they do. It is not wide spread within the public and is therefore not a "public" health crisis.

They do not shoot up with someone who is sober in attendance with antidote at hand or in a safe injection site where they can get care.

As far as I am concerned any special property tax levy is unfounded and unnecessary.

If these people persist let them do their thing and if they die, they die. I no longer care.

Like Chinese water torture, the newsies feed this to us night in and night out and all it is is background noise akin to a soap add or an add for condoms. Something else to be tuned out.

s.22(1)



From: s.22(1)

To: ["Affleck, George" <George.Affleck@vancouver.ca>](mailto:George.Affleck@vancouver.ca)  
["Ball, Elizabeth" <Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Elizabeth.Ball@vancouver.ca)  
["Carr, Adriane" <Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Adriane.Carr@vancouver.ca)  
["De Genova, Melissa" <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca)  
["Deal, Heather" <Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Heather.Deal@vancouver.ca)  
["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Louie, Raymond" <Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Raymond.Louie@vancouver.ca)  
["Meggs, Geoff" <Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Geoff.Meggs@vancouver.ca)  
["Reimer, Andrea" <Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Andrea.Reimer@vancouver.ca)  
["Stevenson, Tim" <Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tim.Stevenson@vancouver.ca)  
["Robertson, Gregor" <Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Gregor.Robertson@vancouver.ca)

Date: 12/11/2016 5:05:02 PM

Subject: 2017 budget: Please vote yes on 0.5% fentanyl property tax

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to express my support for the 0.5% property tax increase proposed to help combat the fentanyl crisis that Vancouver is currently dealing with. I hope that along with Councillor Meggs, the majority of you will vote in favour of this increase on Tuesday.

I respect that property taxes are already going up this year, and that many Vancouver families struggle with the cost of living here. However, I strongly feel that it is our civic duty to strive to improve the outlook for the city's most vulnerable residents, and invest in an infrastructure that is more equitable across all neighbourhoods and income brackets. I also hope that the city will continue to push the provincial and federal governments to do more to better the situation on the DTES.

Thank you for consideration,

s.22(1)



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office"](#)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/14/2016 9:42:19 AM

Subject: RE: Vancouver approves 3.9-per-cent property-tax hike that includes spending on fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Office of City Manager.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

---

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 5:32 PM

To: Robertson, Gregor

Cc: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: Vancouver approves 3.9-per-cent property-tax hike that includes spending on fentanyl crisis

Mr. Robertson;

I acknowledge that there is a fentanyl crisis in Vancouver. However, why should we tax payers continue to pay more and more in taxes and the local government continues to waste taxpayers dollars without proper public consultation? Why not place a moratorium on creating more bike lanes and allocate a percentage of taxpayers hard earned dollars towards this crisis.

This increase in taxes will not do a thing for this fentanyl, crisis. I am friends with first responders in the city who have told me stories of addicts overdosing in the Downtown Eastside and the next day or so, they get called and low and behold, they are responding to the same person. The fentanyl crisis is a global concern and I as a taxpayer, shouldn't be on the hook for treating addicts. All levels of government must come together and work out a solution as to how to attack this problem. As long as the laws in Canada are lax towards drug dealers, more and more drugs will come into the city. Our laws are too liberal and our local as well as federal governments are too liberal as well.

Addiction in our society is a problem. We need to establish resources for an addict to recover from addiction. Rather than creating more safe injection sites, we need to have more rehabilitation programs and education available to addicts. More outreach workers need to be hired in order to help people in vulnerable communities.

Your increase in taxes are only a bandaid solution to a bigger problem. So, rather than trying to look like superheroes combatting the fentanyl drug crisis in Vancouver, work with higher levels of government to create a solution. Involve residents and taxpayers in proper public consultation before voting on increasing taxes.

Most taxpayers are struggling to keep their families afloat. More taxes will result in families having to cut back on basic essentials!

Regards,





From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:01:55 AM

Subject: RE: The 0.5% Fentanyl Tax

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, Corporate Management Team and City Clerk's Meeting Coordinators.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's | City of Vancouver  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 9:15 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

Subject: The 0.5% Fentanyl Tax

I am furious at the proposal that Vancouver homeowners should pay an additional 0.5% to deal with the fentanyl crisis. Why should law-abiding property owners who already face a substantial tax increase be expected to take on this burden when virtually nothing is being done to stem the flow of these drugs into our community at the source. I was on the Downtown Eastside last week and witnessed open drug dealing yet again. In one instance it was taking place shamelessly right in the middle of the sidewalk to the point that the dealer and addict had to step aside to let me pass. Why aren't the dealers in jail? Why should we be penalized in order to support people who will not take responsibility for their own lives? Addicts are now expecting to be saved. One was found with three empty Naloxone vials next to him when help arrived for the fourth time. Need I remind you that you once floated the harebrained idea of paying someone to help addicts cross the road. All you are doing is throwing more and more money at the DTES with no results. I have no confidence that this money will not simply end up in the black hole of city operations. It is just another cash grab. People are fed up and are suffering from compassion fatigue when it comes to this issue.

I am a product of the sixties and blame my generation for making drugtaking socially acceptable. But guilt will only take me so far.

I have been eligible to defer my property taxes for a number of years. It has never occurred to me to do so. I will be deferring them as of this year. And I won't be voting Vision.

s.22(1)

Sent from my iPhone



From: ["Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office" <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

To: s.22(1)

Date: 12/8/2016 10:42:38 AM

Subject: RE: Tax increase for fentanyl crisis

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group  
City Clerk's Office  
mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

From: s.22(1)

Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2016 10:35 AM

To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; McKearney, John

Cc: IAFF Local 18 (VFRS Union Office)

Subject: Tax increase for fentanyl crisis

We (myself and my partner) support the tax increase being proposed to deal with the current crisis for fentanyl laced drugs in Vancouver. This seems only the tip of the iceberg in what could happen if we get even more synthetic narcotics being produced.

Fire Fighters, ambulance paramedics, police and, social service workers are all feeling the effects of this crisis. We need to support them!

The DTES firehall #2 has always been at the forefront in having to deal with the effects of the drug and mental health policies of the past and continue to work tirelessly but, they cannot do this alone. As Vancouver residents we need to stand up and support them in their struggle to help save people's lives, our fellow Vancouver citizens.

Thank you for your support.

s.22(1)

Vancouver BC

s.22(1)

# Mayor and Council Feedback Report

Source: 3-1-1, in-person, mail and mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

Date range: April 21, 2016

Action or Review Required from MAYOR/COUNCILLORS								
City Branch also notified (if applicable)	Feedback Type (complaint, compliment, opinion)	Requestor Name	Phone	E-mail	Citizen Requested a Response	Topic	Case Details	Additional Case Details/ Event Notes
Mayor & Council	complaint	s.22(1)	s.22(1)	s.22(1)	Yes	Lack of Beds, Ill & Mentally Ill	LACK OF BEDS FOR ILL OR MENTALLY ILL Of course I'm proud of our mayor's image of high standards in the world. Also, like the famous loved kings of past, he goes out in disguise to see the real truth after dark in our city. I discovered s.22(1) 2 days after his death from fentanyl overdose on s.22(1) Why? Because every day I was phoned by social workers, saying his bed was needed. . I saw for myself, at Medical Centre 715 W. 12th young confused children of single parents being ejected with no real oversight on their emergence. Usually they were back the day. The same at Venture 13 the & Main. All the money going to useless projects like last year's Robson St. Unnatural installation etc. could be applied to hospital beds and real work and oversight after release.	



Mayor and Council Feedback Report

Source: 3-1-1, in-person, mail and mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

Date Range: May 02, 2016

Action or Review Required from MAYOR/COUNCILLORS								
City Branch also notified (if applicable)	Feedback Type (complaint, compliment, opinion)	Requestor Name	Phone	E-mail	Citizen Requested a Response	Topic	Case Details	Additional Case Details/ Event Notes
Mayor & Council	opinion	s.22(1)	s.22(1)	s.22(1)	No	Marijuana Dispensaries	Subject: New Dispensary Regulations Will Kill Fentanyl is making its way into low quality marijuana on the streets. By restricting access to dispensaries you are willingly exposing low income people to the risk. Your policies are harmful and redundant. Minors get their hands on alcohol and they will get their hands on medical marijuana all the same. Let me ask you, would you rather expose our youth and low income adults to fentanyl laced products on the streets or safe product from regulated stores? Or are you just going to ignore the truth and reject harm reduction strategies?	

Mayor and Council Feedback Report

Source: 3-1-1, in-person, mail and mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

Date Range: June 06, 2016

Action or Review Required from MAYOR/COUNCILLORS								
City Branch also notified (if applicable)	Feedback Type (complaint, compliment, opinion)	Requestor Name	Phone	E-mail	Citizen Requested a Response	Topic	Case Details	Additional Case Details/ Event Notes
Mayor & Council, Original to VPD, Media - Westender, Vancourier, Georgia Straight, Globe & Mail; Providence Health	opinion	s.22(1)		s.22(1)	No	Drugs	<p>Subject: Legalize and Control Drugs. Now! Hello</p> <p>The so-called 'war on drugs' has more than just failed. It has spawned a crime culture so much a part of our current civilization that without it we wouldn't recognize our current existence.</p> <p>It is futile to suggest that you can stop people from finding drugs. If you smugly think that punishing users and traffickers is going to have any effect, you are delusional.</p> <p>The rash of fentanyl overdoses, and now that the media reports that our technology makes it even easier for illicit products to be concocted and distributed demands our governments to act.</p> <p>Legalize and control the production and distribution, and availability, of all drugs in a systemized manner. Invest the policing / incarceration budgets into product control and rehab.</p> <p>Our current system is a nightmare. Considering what Portugal (and New Zealand) have initiated in their new approach to human's addictive nature, Canada is unbelievably behind the times. We will look back on the last 30 years as a societal failure.</p> <p>Justin Trudeau, are you listening?</p>	



Mayor and Council Feedback Report

Source: 3-1-1, in-person, mail and mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca

Date Range: July 19, 2016

Action or Review Required from MAYOR/COUNCILLORS								
City Branch also notified (if applicable)	Feedback Type (complaint, compliment, opinion)	Requestor Name	Phone	E-mail	Citizen Requested a Response	Topic	Case Details	Additional Case Details/ Event Notes
Mayor & Council	opinion	s.22(1)	s.22(1)		No	Marijuana Dispensaries	s.22(1) is concerned about the treatment of dispensaries in Vancouver. Closing stores forces people to go to street dealers. People are then put in a position to try more then cannabis which leads to terrible consequences for example the high number of fentanyl deaths in Surrey s.22(1) is suggesting a policy change.	

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

To: "Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>

"Llewellyn-Thomas, Kathleen" <Kathleen.Llewellyn-Thomas@vancouver.ca>

Date: 12/8/2016 4:45:22 PM

Subject: Fw: Fentanyl forum

s.13(1)

S

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston

City Manager

Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

O. 604 873 7627

T. Sadhuaajohnston

---

**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office <ccclerk@vancouver.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, December 8, 2016 4:44 PM

**To:** s.22(1)

**Subject:** RE: Fentanyl forum

---

Thank you for your email which has been circulated to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council, and Corporate Management Team.

Correspondence Group

City Clerk's | City of Vancouver

[mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca)

**From:** s.22(1)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2016 3:55 PM

**To:** Robertson, Gregor; Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office

**Subject:** Fentanyl forum

How can you stage a public forum on this issue and not invite one person from the RECOVERY community to your panel?

You really are appallingly ignorant, which in this matter makes you dangerous.

You keep turning to all of the usual suspects and expect new answers. This is remarkably like addiction.

s.22(1)



From: ["Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>](mailto:MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)

["Llewellyn-Thomas, Kathleen" <Kathleen.Llewellyn-Thomas@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kathleen.Llewellyn-Thomas@vancouver.ca)

["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/16/2016 4:17:43 PM

Subject: FW: Update on the overdose emergency

Attachments: Overdose Emergency HAMAC Sept 13 2016.ppt

Hi – see attached from Patty Daly – she will bring above ppt on Monday morning.

VPD, Fire, bringing data and VCH and CoV providing needle info.

Kevin, will send follow up email re: logistics thx mc

---

**From:** Daly, Patty (VCH)

**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 4:36 PM

**To:** Zak, MaryClare

**Subject:** Update on the overdose emergency

Hi Mary Clare – attached is a presentation I gave to the Health Authority Medical Advisory Committee (i.e. our senior physician leadership) that I will bring to Monday morning's meeting with the mayor. I can go into more detail on the specific actions that are summarized on the last slide.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: [Patricia.Daly@vch.ca](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)  
Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: [Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)



# Provincial Overdose Emergency

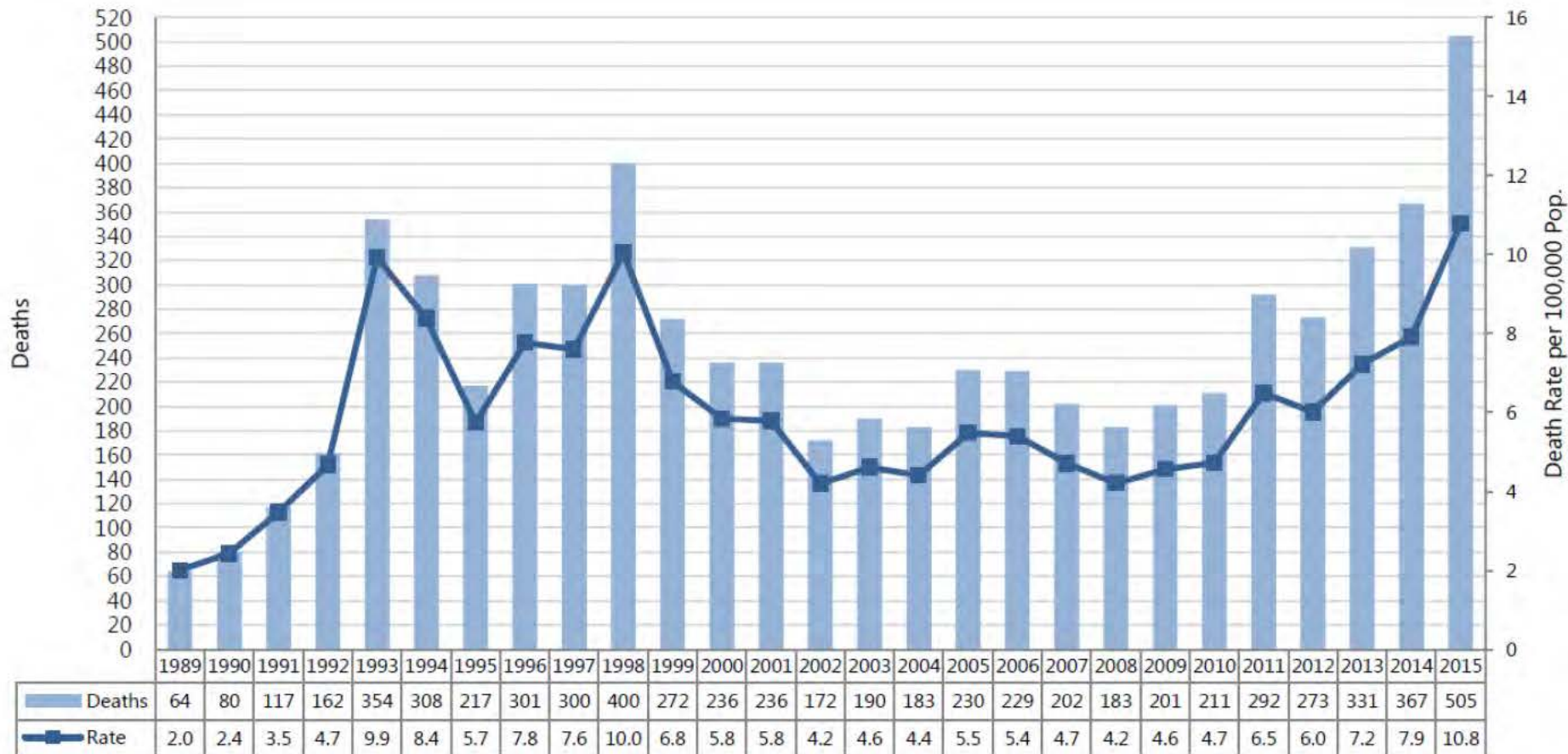
Patricia Daly  
HAMAC

September 13, 2016

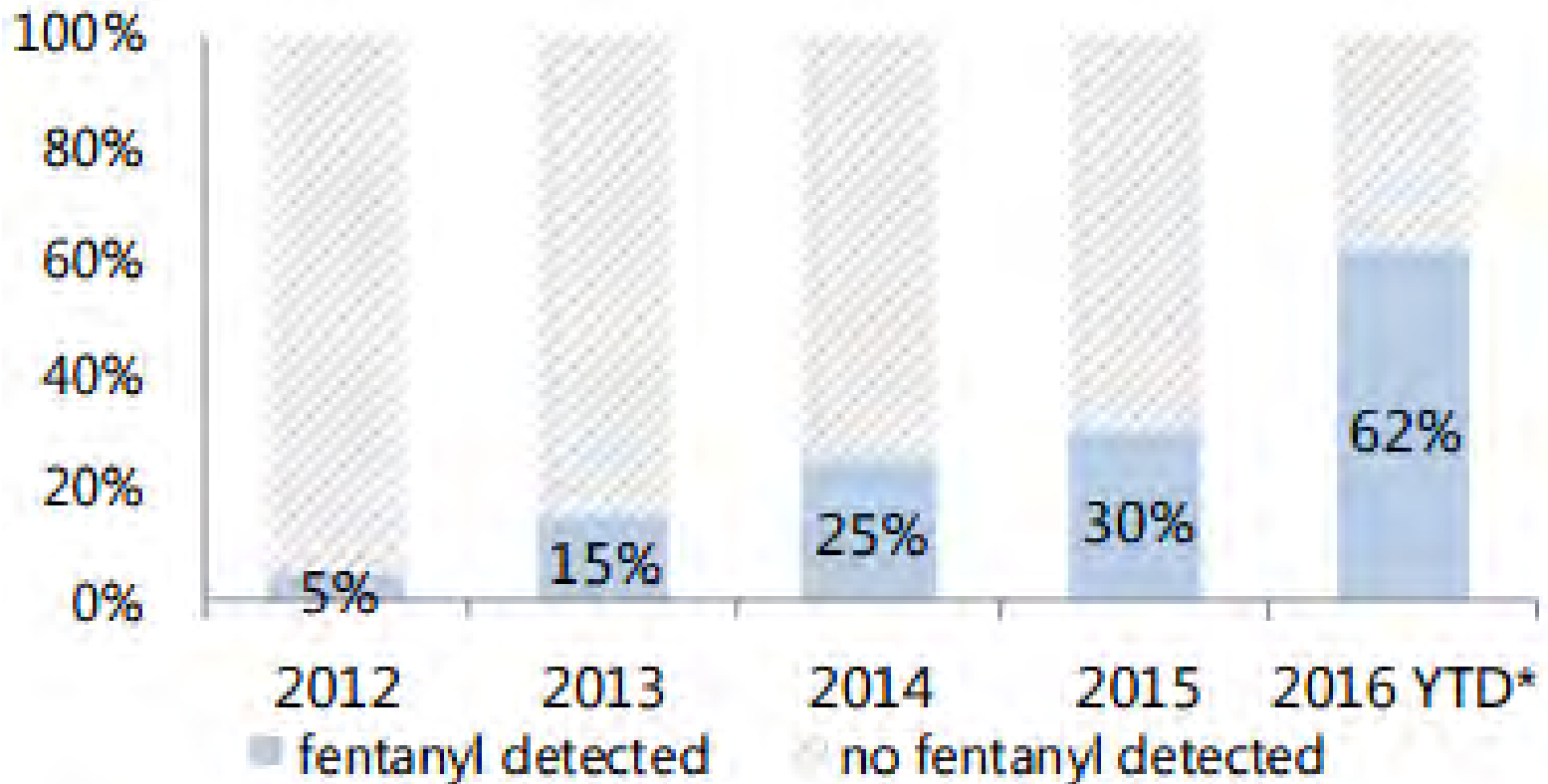


# Coroner's Data

## Illicit Drug Overdose Deaths and Death Rate per 100,000 Population



## Percentage of Illicit Drug Deaths in Which Fentanyl Detected, 2012-2016 YTD\*



\*To June 30, 2016

Source: BC Coroner's Service

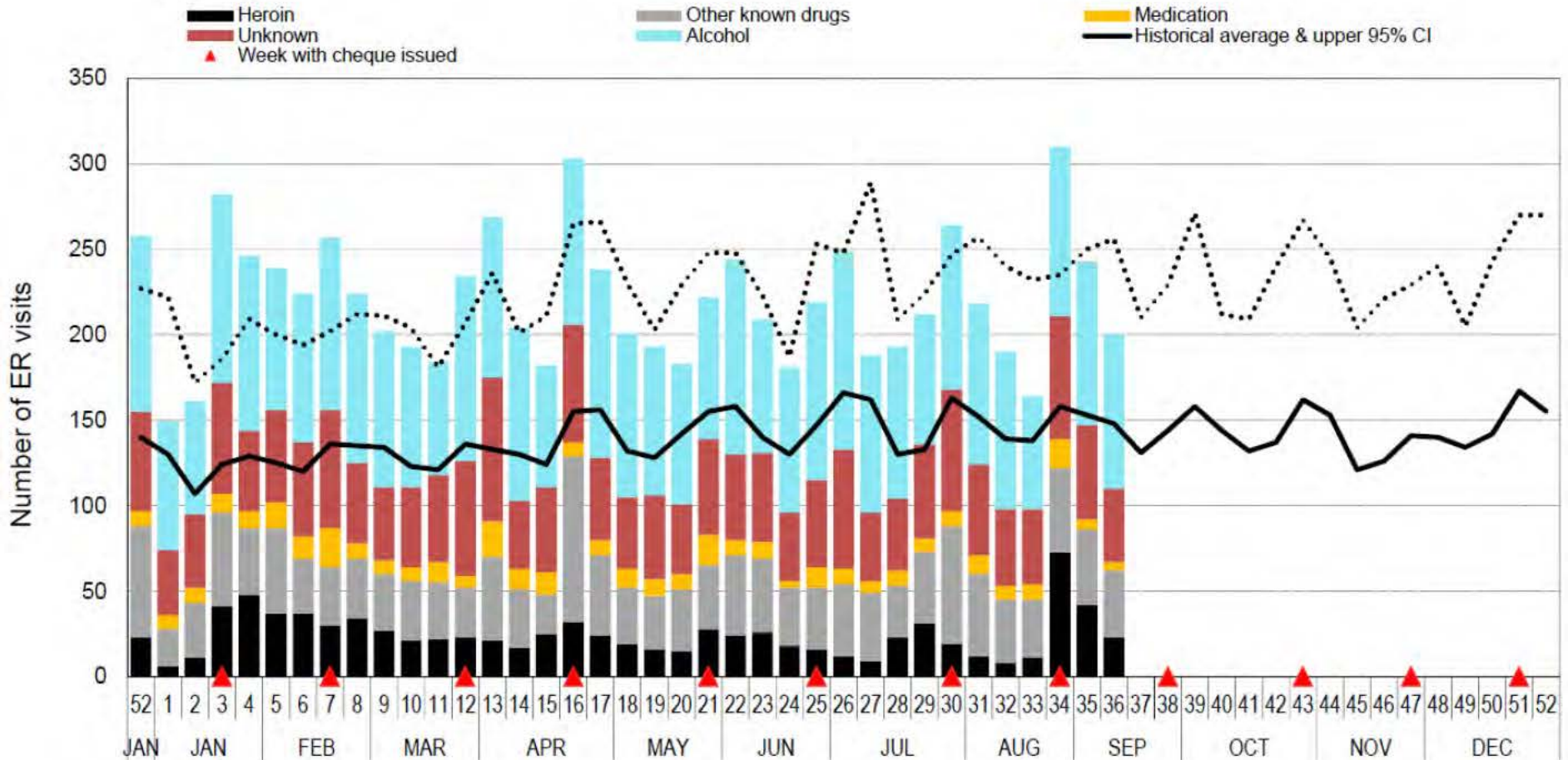


# Increase in Deaths 2016

Township	Deaths 2015	Expected Deaths Jan-July 2016*	Observed Deaths Jan-July 2016	O/E
Vancouver	133	78	78	1.0
Surrey	72	42	55	1.3
Victoria	17	10	34	3.4
Burnaby	16	9	13	1.4
Kelowna	20	12	23	1.9
Abbotsford	25	16	21	1.3
Nanaimo	19	11	19	1.7
Maple Ridge	27	16	19	1.2
Kamloops	7	4	22	5.5
Langley	10	6	17	2.8

# VCH Emergency Department Visits

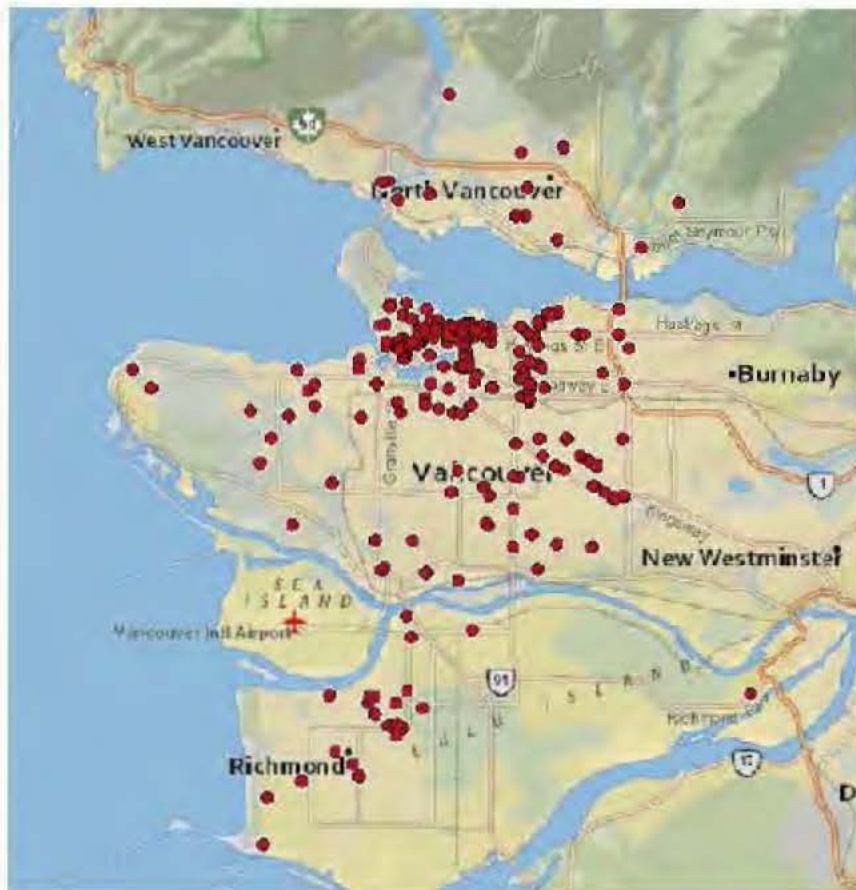
Figure 1. Number of ER visits related to overdose\* by substance type and epidemiological week. Vancouver Coastal Health, 2016 compared to historical average and 95% confidence limits†





# BC Emergency Health Services

BC EHS naloxone administrations, April 14 to August 28, 2016, VCH (n=532).



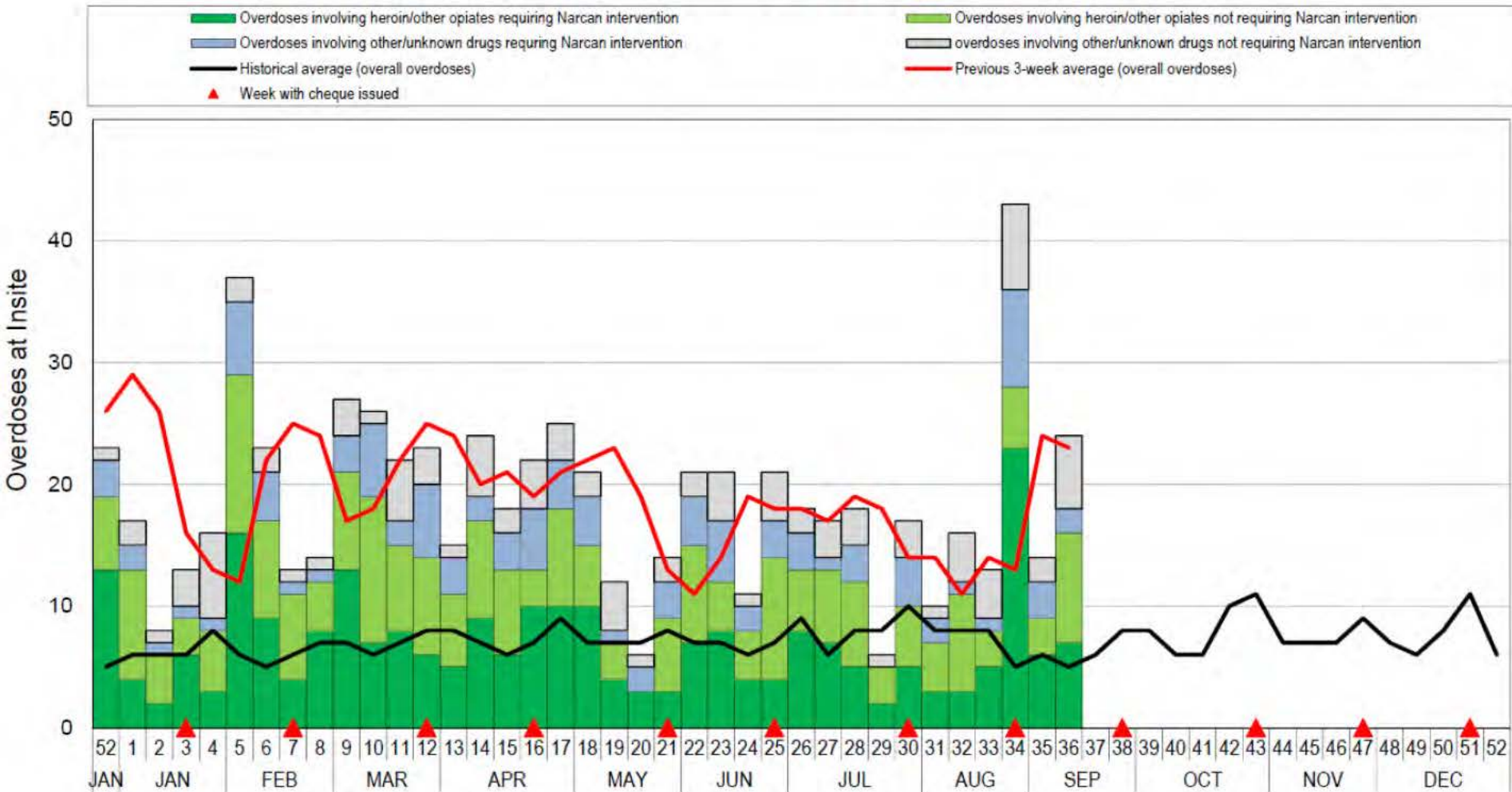
Data source: BC Emergency Health Services, April 14 to August 28, 2016

Map created by: PHSU, September 2016

For internal VCH use only

# Overdoses at InSite

Number of Vancouver Insite\* visits resulting in an overdose by epidemiological week.  
VCHA, 2016 compared to previous 3-week average and historical average†





# 90% of drugs checked at Insite contain fentanyl



SHARE <

## Supervised injection

August 31, 2016



# How are we responding?

- Expanding access to naloxone
  - Take-Home-Naloxone (THN) kits distributed in EDs to those seen for overdoses
  - All community health centres and mental health and substance use programs have THN
  - Training staff in supportive housing and shelters to give naloxone
  - VPD have intranasal naloxone
- Expanding Supervised Injection Services
  - InSite now open 24 hours for 3 days during the week of social assistance cheque distribution
  - Application for 4 additional sites for SIS in Vancouver; renovations starting
- Improved Addiction Treatment
  - Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) as first line; methadone license not required
  - START program in Vancouver: At-home detox
  - St. Paul's Rapid Addiction Assessment program
  - Low barrier VCH addictions clinic DTES later this year



From: "Daly, Patty \VCH\" <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>

To: [Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca)

["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

Date: 9/30/2016 1:28:01 PM

Subject: Letters of support for SIS in Vancouver

Attachments: Reply\_example\_ SIS\_support\_V3 NG.DOCX

Dear Perry and Sadhu,

As you know, we are finalizing our applications for two new sites for supervised injection services in Vancouver, at 528 Powell St. (site of the current Living Room Drop-In operated by Lookout, that is being renovated and expanded with a new contract from VCH) and the VCH Heatley Community Health Centre (i.e. Strathcona Mental Health site). Both sites will be renovated to include 4 injection booths modelled after those at Insite; the Powell location will have the ability to expand to 6 booths.

As part of the Health Canada application process, we require letters of support from the Provincial Health Officer and the Mayor of Vancouver, as we did for Insite and the Dr. Peter Centre.

Perry, can I ask you for a letter, and Sadhu to coordinate a letter from Mayor Robertson. Attached is a sample for consideration, although feel free to adapt as you see fit.

We hope to have the final application ready to go in 2 weeks.

Thank you for your help on this!

Patty

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: [Patricia.Daly@vch.ca](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)  
Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: [Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)

I wish to express my support for the application to Health Canada for an exemption under S56 of the federal Drug and Substances Act for both the: the new DTES Mental health and Substance Use Drop-In centre at 528 Powell Street and the Heatley Integrated Health Centre at 330 Heatley Street. I consider the provision of supervised injection services (SIS), in the context of broader health and social services, an important way to engage and support many of Vancouver's most vulnerable citizens.

SIS have been rigorously and scientifically studied, including both the Dr. Peter Centre and Insite, located in Vancouver, and the evidence describing their benefits is clear. Some of these benefits include harm reduction support such as: improved uptake of substance use treatment, prevention of serious infections and overdose deaths. The latter is especially important given the provincial opioid overdose emergency British Columbia is currently facing. As such, I consider access to this service to be an essential part of a continuum of public health and addiction services.

Sincerely,



From: ["Bartlett, Robert" <Robert.Bartlett@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Robert.Bartlett@vancouver.ca)

To: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

Date: 10/13/2016 5:11:27 PM

Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks, will go through, there is some good information.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Original Message

From: Johnston, Sadhu

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:47 PM

To: Bartlett, Robert

Subject: FW: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Worth reviewing the emails below.

s.

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager

City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue

Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4

604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)

Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:38 PM

To: Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty (VCH); Jang, Kerry; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]

Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Sebastian, Lorraine

Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Andrew from VCH ops would be our lead. Let me know if I r mtg and will join if I can.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Johnston, Sadhu

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 3:20 PM

To: Daly, Patty [VC]; Jang, Kerry; Case, Laura [VC]

Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Sebastian, Lorraine

Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi folks

Our risk assessment staff are working on this and i've been engaging with our partners on this. I wonder if there would be value in sitting down to go over this work tomorrow 11:30-12?

Thanks

Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuajohnston

Original Message

From: Daly, Patty (VCH)

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 2:33 PM

To: Jang, Kerry; Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Compton, Miranda [VC]; Wilson, Gavin [CORP]

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Kerry - to add to Laura's note, we have been aware than Ann Livingston and Sarah set up this up as they informed us of their intent. They are aware the VCH can't provide support for supervised injection services operating without a Health Canada exemption. We agree with you that we want to expand these services in appropriate settings with appropriately trained staff. However, we also understand that Ann and Sarah are motivated by concern about the health and well-being of injection drug users and the length of time it takes to obtain Health Canada exemptions to legally expand these services - we agree, and we appreciate your support in helping us advocate with the federal government to change federal legislation to address these delays.

While it will take some time to open new supervised injection services, we do have plans underway right now to create outreach of appropriately trained peers who can recognize and treat opioid overdoses, to be deployed in the alleys near the street market and elsewhere in the DTES. We are working with VANDU on this. This is in addition to expanding training, and naloxone supplies, to agencies staffing supportive housing in the DTES. Both these initiatives can be done without requiring Health Canada exemptions, and will be valuable additional services to prevent overdose deaths even when we open additional sites with supervised injection. As these strategies are implemented we believe they will address the concerns near the street market.

Regarding concerns about wait times at InSite, within the last year, staff there have done a great job smoothing wait times by changing operating hours and working to improve flow. In addition, starting in August, they are opening 24 hours a day for 3 days in the week of social assistance cheque distribution. We'll continue to communicate with Ann and Sarah about working with us to connect clients with InSite and other VCH harm reduction services as the best approach.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: Patricia.Daly@vch.ca  
Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: Mavis.Chu@vch.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:39 PM

To: Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty



[VC]

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks Laura,

That would be great. I just received an e-mail from Ms. Blythe and confirms she has set up a tent in the street market. She claims that there are so many users in the market they had to take some organized steps. Their actions are dangerous for the users as no-one is trained and all they have is naloxone kits. An unintended consequence of the widespread distribution of the kits to the community,

Looking forward to next steps and thanks for all your help on this.

Cheers,

Kerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:33 PM

To: Jang, Kerry; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty (VCH)

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Andrew will call you later today once he get all the info we have There likely is no immediate answer here - I suggest MaryClare or delegate calls a mtg of city, police and health folks together to see if we can come up with a short and medium term solution together....

Not an easy one for sure...

Laura Case RN BSN MBA

Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Community

Phone: 604 992-2174

Email: [laura.case@vch.ca](mailto:laura.case@vch.ca)

Executive Assistant: Sven Gelhausen

Email: [sven.gelhausen@vch.ca](mailto:sven.gelhausen@vch.ca)

604-714-3789

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 12:52 PM

To: Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Laura,

We are trying to get a better handle on this "pop up" site.

Do you have any information on how this thing got started? I am hearing all sorts of reasons like line ups at Insite to the fact that the Naloxone kits are widely available those in possession feel like "doctors" and say, "go ahead, shoot up I am here and under the impression that naloxone is a cure all ". It seems to be a moving target, some saying it is happening in the street market, some in BC Housing buildings or on Hastings Street.

In VCH's opinion, what should the health response be? Should workers be going down there to move people to Insite? Should better training to those with naloxone kits to emphasize appropriate use? Is Insite over subscribed?

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issue. If everyone is saying it's not their responsibility then are we all complicit in letting it exist until there is problem? What is the impact on the applications to Health Canada? What does it say about how we handle emerging issues.

As you can see, I am looking for a solution that would be in the best interest of the addicts.

Your thoughts, or members of your team who are working on this would be very welcome.

Call me if you want 778 229 6569

Cheers and thanks,

Kerry

Councillor, City of Vancouver  
Professor of Psychiatry, UBC

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Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare

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Date: 10/13/2016 4:53:33 PM  
Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Miranda is confirmed.....and will also represent Patty...  
She will be able to update you on the various initiatives and planned approach.  
Thanks,  
A.

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Hi Andrew-  
Unfortunately I'm tied up until 11:30. Can you send someone to the 11:30?  
I'd appreciate getting a quick update from your 10 am meeting.  
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Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston

City Manager

Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca

O. 604 873 7627

T. Sadhuajohnston

Original Message

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Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Compton, Miranda [VC]; Wilson, Gavin [CORP]

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Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: Patricia.Daly@vch.ca  
Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
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....just sending an e-mail now....will confirm later, Sadhu....

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Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 3:42 PM  
To: Johnston, Sadhu  
Cc: Sebastian, Lorraine  
Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks Sadhu,

I used your email as an additional impetus to the group and encourage them to provide final pieces of information in to the risk assessment.

I hope to receive all comments back tonight and therefore it will be ready for the meeting tomorrow.

Regards,  
Robert

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To: Daly, Patty (VCH); Jang, Kerry; Case, Laura [VC]  
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Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi folks

Our risk assessment staff are working on this and i've been engaging with our partners on this. I wonder if there would be value in sitting down to go over this work tomorrow 11:30-12?

Thanks  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. [Sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)

Original Message

From: Daly, Patty (VCH)  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 2:33 PM  
To: Jang, Kerry; Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]  
Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Compton, Miranda [VC]; Wilson, Gavin [CORP]



Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Kerry - to add to Laura's note, we have been aware than Ann Livingston and Sarah set up this up as they informed us of their intent. They are aware the VCH can't provide support for supervised injection services operating without a Health Canada exemption. We agree with you that we want to expand these services in appropriate settings with appropriately trained staff. However, we also understand that Ann and Sarah are motivated by concern about the health and well-being of injection drug users and the length of time it takes to obtain Health Canada exemptions to legally expand these services - we agree, and we appreciate your support in helping us advocate with the federal government to change federal legislation to address these delays.

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Regarding concerns about wait times at InSite, within the last year, staff there have done a great job smoothing wait times by changing operating hours and working to improve flow. In addition, starting in August, they are opening 24 hours a day for 3 days in the week of social assistance cheque distribution. We'll continue to communicate with Ann and Sarah about working with us to connect clients with InSite and other VCH harm reduction services as the best approach.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
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Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: Patricia.Daly@vch.ca  
Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: Mavis.Chu@vch.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:39 PM

To: Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty [VC]

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks Laura,

That would be great. I just received an e-mail from Ms. Blythe and confirms she has set up a tent in the street market. She claims that there are so many users in the market they had to take some organized steps. Their actions are dangerous for the users as no-one is trained and all they have is naloxone kits. An unintended consequence of the widespread distribution of the kits to the community,

Looking forward to next steps and thanks for all your help on this.

Cheers,

Kerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:33 PM

To: Jang, Kerry; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty (VCH)

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Andrew will call you later today once he get all the info we have There likely is no immediate answer here - I suggest MaryClare or delegate calls a mtg of city, police and health folks together to see if we can come up with a short and medium term solution together....

Not an easy one for sure...

Laura Case RN BSN MBA

Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Community

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Email: [laura.case@vch.ca](mailto:laura.case@vch.ca)

Executive Assistant: Sven Gelhausen

Email: [sven.gelhausen@vch.ca](mailto:sven.gelhausen@vch.ca)

604-714-3789

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 12:52 PM

To: Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Laura,

We are trying to get a better handle on this "pop up" site.

Do you have any information on how this thing got started? I am hearing all sorts of reasons like line ups at Insite to the fact that the Naloxone kits are widely available those in possession feel like "doctors" and say, "go ahead, shoot up I am here and under the impression that naloxone is a cure all ". It seems to be a moving target, some saying it is happening in the street market, some in BC Housing buildings or on Hastings Street.

In VCH's opinion, what should the health response be? Should workers be going down there to move people to Insite? Should better training to those with naloxone kits to emphasize appropriate use? Is Insite over subscribed?

I understand VCH not wanting to get involved for the reasons you outline, but we have VPD saying this is a health issue. If everyone is saying it's not their responsibility then are we all complicit in letting it exist until there is problem? What is the impact on the applications to Health Canada? What does it say about how we handle emerging issues.

As you can see, I am looking for a solution that would be in the best interest of the addicts.

Your thoughts, or members of your team who are working on this would be very welcome.

Call me if you want 778 229 6569

Cheers and thanks,



Kerry

Councillor, City of Vancouver  
Professor of Psychiatry, UBC

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 8:32 AM

To: Jang, Kerry; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Kerry, the site is being supported by members of the community not associated with any VCH owned or operated sites and or contracted sites....

So....really VCH has no jurisdiction to intervene.

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604-714-3789

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 8:37 PM

To: Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: Case, Laura [VC]; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu

Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Neil,

So you are saying this pop up SIS is actually operating?!

And that city staff were aware? And "keeping an eye on it". If so, I am aghast.

Are there plans to shut it down?

Cheers

Kerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 12, 2016, at 7:34 PM, Arao, Neil [VC] <[Neil.Arao@vch.ca](mailto:Neil.Arao@vch.ca)> wrote:

>

> Hi all,

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> I have connected with Miranda Compton about this as well and here is what we know:

> It was initiated last cheque day and operating since. The Go Fund ME campaign is a recent development. It is suspected that the Naloxone is coming from Toward the Heart. CofV has met with VCH about this a couple of weeks ago - City is aware and planned to keep an eye on it however to date no intervention has been had.

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>

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> MHSU Manager - Inner City Health Services

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> For appointments, please contact [Anetta.Stankowski@vch.ca](mailto:Anetta.Stankowski@vch.ca)



From: ["Daly, Patty \VCH\" <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)  
To: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)  
["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)  
["Case, Laura \[VC\]" <Laura.Case@vch.ca>](mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca)  
Date: 10/13/2016 2:36:46 PM  
Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Sadhu - I don't think I can make it over until noon at the earliest tomorrow, if that would work - alternatively, I can ask Miranda Compton to attend - she is our Director of Prevention and is leading our overall response to the opioid overdose emergency so she can provide a lot of detail.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Johnston, Sadhu [<mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 3:20 PM  
To: Daly, Patty [VC]; Jang, Kerry; Case, Laura [VC]  
Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Sebastian, Lorraine  
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Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare  
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Cc: Case, Laura [VC]; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu  
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Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 12, 2016, at 7:34 PM, Arao, Neil [VC] <[Neil.Arao@vch.ca](mailto:Neil.Arao@vch.ca)> wrote:  
>  
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From: ["Daly, Patty \VCH\" <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)

To: ["Jang, Kerry" <Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca)

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["Case, Laura \[VC\]" <Laura.Case@vch.ca>](mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca)

["MacFarlane, Andrew \[VC\]" <Andrew.MacFarlane@vch.ca>](mailto:Andrew.MacFarlane@vch.ca)

Date: 10/14/2016 8:04:59 AM

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks Kerry for this list - I have one or two media calls this morning, and I will be at the meeting.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
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Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: [Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 8:56 AM

To: Daly, Patty [VC]; Johnston, Sadhu; Case, Laura [VC]; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]

Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Compton, Miranda [VC]; Robb, Katie; Zaharia, Sarah; Zak, MaryClare

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hello all,

In preparation for the meeting today, just a quick update on some media calls I received last night. s.13(1)

s.13(1) I asked what questions would they like answered. They also said they would contact VCH and CoV communications. It's a compilation of questions I collected from CKNW, Sun, Metro, etc.

Here are the questions posed:

1. Why did a pop up safe injection site open up? Is Insite full? Are the services presently in the area full or not up to speed yet?
2. Given all the resources (\$\$\$) released when the state of emergency was announced, what actual street level services did this fund?
3. The pop up safe injection site is not sanctioned - why doesn't someone close it down? Whose responsibility is it? What will happen to the addicts in need?
4. Are the people running the pop up site inviting people to shoot up? Why don't they send them to Insite?
5. This is all very unusual - how long did VCH and CoV know? Is this a health or policing issue?
6. How does this affect the new SiS? Is it proof we need more sites? Will more of these unsanctioned one open up? Will it be allowed to continue?

Cheers,

Kerry

-----Original Message-----



From: Daly, Patty (VCH)  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:51 PM  
To: Johnston, Sadhu; Case, Laura [VC]; Jang, Kerry; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]  
Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Compton, Miranda [VC]  
Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Sadhu, I will try and leave my other meeting earlier to join as soon as I can after 11:30, and I'll also send Miranda Compton on my behalf for 11:30 too.

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From: Johnston, Sadhu [<mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:46 PM  
To: Case, Laura [VC]; Daly, Patty [VC]; Jang, Kerry; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]  
Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert  
Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks the meeting is on for 11:30.  
Thanks  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]  
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 5:38 PM  
To: Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty (VCH); Jang, Kerry; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]  
Cc: Quinlan, Kevin; Bartlett, Robert; Sebastian, Lorraine  
Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Andrew from VCH ops would be our lead. Let me know if I r mtg and will join if I can.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

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Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Thanks Laura,

That would be great. I just received an e-mail from Ms. Blythe and confirms she has set up a tent in the street market. She claims that there are so many users in the market they had to take some organized steps. Their actions are dangerous for the users as no-one is trained and all they have is naloxone kits. An unintended consequence of the widespread distribution of the kits to the community,

Looking forward to next steps and thanks for all your help on this.

Cheers,

Kerry

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:33 PM

To: Jang, Kerry; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu; Daly, Patty (VCH)

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Andrew will call you later today once he get all the info we have There likely is no immediate answer here - I suggest MaryClare or delegate calls a mtg of city, police and health folks together to see if we can come up with a short and medium term solution together....

Not an easy one for sure...

Laura Case RN BSN MBA  
Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Community  
Phone: 604 992-2174  
Email: laura.case@vch.ca  
Executive Assistant: Sven Gelhausen  
Email: sven.gelhausen@vch.ca  
604-714-3789

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 12:52 PM

To: Case, Laura [VC]; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Laura,

We are trying to get a better handle on this "pop up" site.

Do you have any information on how this thing got started? I am hearing all sorts of reasons like line ups at Insite to the fact that the Naloxone kits are widely available those in possession feel like "doctors" and say, "go ahead, shoot up I am here and under the impression that naloxone is a cure all ". It seems to be a moving target, some saying it is happening in the street market, some in BC Housing buildings or on Hastings Street.

In VCH's opinion, what should the health response be? Should workers be going down there to move people to Insite? Should better training to those with naloxone kits to emphasize appropriate use? Is Insite over subscribed?

I understand VCH not wanting to get involved for the reasons you outline, but we have VPD saying this is a health issue. If everyone is saying it's not their responsibility then are we all complicit in letting it exist until there is problem? What is the impact on the applications to Health Canada? What does it say about how we handle emerging issues.

As you can see, I am looking for a solution that would be in the best interest of the addicts.

Your thoughts, or members of your team who are working on this would be very welcome.

Call me if you want 778 229 6569

Cheers and thanks,

Kerry

Councillor, City of Vancouver

Professor of Psychiatry, UBC

-----Original Message-----

From: Case, Laura [VC] [<mailto:Laura.Case@vch.ca>]

Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 8:32 AM

To: Jang, Kerry; Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare

Subject: RE: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Kerry, the site is being supported by members of the community not associated with any VCH owned or operated sites and or contracted sites....

So....really VCH has no jurisdiction to intervene.

Laura Case RN BSN MBA

Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Community

Phone: 604 992-2174

Email: [laura.case@vch.ca](mailto:laura.case@vch.ca)

Executive Assistant: Sven Gelhausen

Email: [sven.gelhausen@vch.ca](mailto:sven.gelhausen@vch.ca)

604-714-3789

-----Original Message-----

From: Jang, Kerry [<mailto:Kerry.Jang@vancouver.ca>]



Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 8:37 PM

To: Arao, Neil [VC]

Cc: Case, Laura [VC]; MacFarlane, Andrew [VC]; Etherington, Caitlin [VC]; Quinlan, Kevin; Zak, MaryClare; Johnston, Sadhu

Subject: Re: Media on DTES Street Market Pop-up Safe Injection Site

Hi Neil,

So you are saying this pop up SIS is actually operating?!

And that city staff were aware? And "keeping an eye on it". If so, I am aghast.

Are there plans to shut it down?

Cheers

Kerry

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 12, 2016, at 7:34 PM, Arao, Neil [VC] <Neil.Arao@vch.ca> wrote:

>

> Hi all,

>

> I have connected with Miranda Compton about this as well and here is what we know:

> It was initiated last cheque day and operating since. The Go Fund ME campaign is a recent development. It is suspected that the Naloxone is coming from Toward the Heart. CofV has met with VCH about this a couple of weeks ago - City is aware and planned to keep an eye on it however to date no intervention has been had.

>

> VCH cannot sanction the site nor are we providing any funding toward it. VCH is working with VANDU to assist with any alleyway sweeps.

>

> Let me know if any additional info is needed.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Neil Arao

> MHSU Manager - Inner City Health Services

>

> For appointments, please contact Anetta.Stankowski@vch.ca

From:	<a href="mailto:Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca">"Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX" &lt;Andrea.Berkes@gov.bc.ca&gt;</a>
To:	<a href="mailto:Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca">"Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX" &lt;Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca&gt;</a> <a href="mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca">"Johnston, Sadhu" &lt;Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca&gt;</a>
Date:	11/17/2016 11:34:48 AM
Subject:	RE: OD task force
Attachments:	Structure for BC Opioid OD Response Sept 30 2016.pdf

Sadhu - please find attached the org chart, as requested

ANDREA BERKES  
Executive Coordinator  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health

-----Original Message-----

From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 10:14 AM  
To: Johnston, Sadhu; Berkes, Andrea HLTH:EX  
Subject: Re: OD task force

Yes. On -  
SCS's and drug testing  
Naloxone use and distribution  
Treatment  
Surveillance  
Public engagement  
Logistics  
Andrea- can you send Sadhu an org chart?  
Perry

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

Original Message

From: Johnston, Sadhu  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 10:02 AM  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Subject: Re: OD task force

Thanks. Are there working groups with experts too?  
Thanks  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuajohnston

Original Message

From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 9:58 AM  
To: Johnston, Sadhu  
Subject: Re: OD task force

Thanks. The Joint TF is chaired by me and the BC Director of Police Services Clayton Pecknold, members Chief Coroner Lisa LaPoint, ADM Arlene Paton, Patty Daly, RCMP Brian Cantera municipal police Lawrence Rankin.

Hope that's what you are looking for.  
Perry  
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.  
From: Johnston, Sadhu  
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 9:35 AM  
To: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
Subject: OD task force

Hello Perry  
Nice work on the radio this morning. Wondering who is on the provincial task force. Could I see the list of who is on the task force?

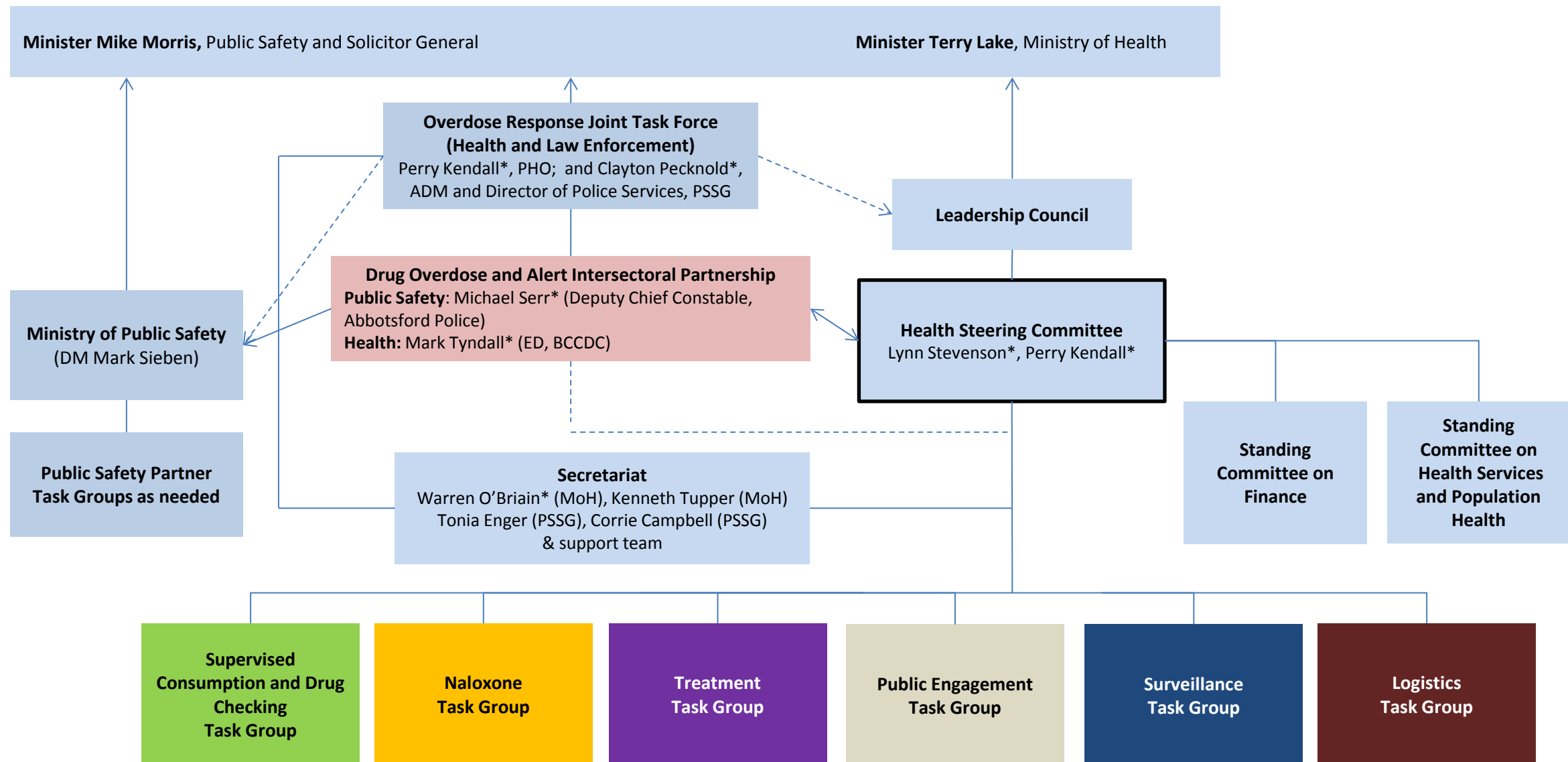
Thanks  
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuajohnston



## Governance Structure - Overdose Response

Last updated: September 30, 2016



### Notes:

\* = chair or co-chairs

HA = health authorities (considers regional, FNHA, and PHSA);

TG = Task Group

A standing invitation is extended to RCMP E Division, select external experts, and PSSG to participate in Task Groups as appropriate.

From: ["Daly, Patty \ \(VCH\)" <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)

To: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)

["Palmer, Adam" <adam.palmer@vpd.ca>](mailto:adam.palmer@vpd.ca)

["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)

["McKearney, John" <john.mckearney@vancouver.ca>](mailto:john.mckearney@vancouver.ca)

Date: 11/30/2016 11:40:48 AM

Subject: Re: Opiod overdose crisis

Yes, we can do so. We also have regular meetings of our VCH Overdose response steering committee and we can invite partners to join.

Patty

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Rogers network.

From: Johnston, Sadhu

Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:54 AM

To: Palmer, Adam; Daly, Patty [VC]; Mochrie, Paul; McKearney, John

Cc: Sebastian, Lorraine

Subject: Opiod overdose crisis

Hi

I'm thinking it would help if we started a bi-weekly meeting with our key agencies to ensure we're coordinated on this current crisis. Do you all agree?

Thanks

Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager

City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue

Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4

604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca) <<mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca>>

Twitter: [sadhuajohnston](https://twitter.com/sadhuajohnston)

[cid:image001.jpg@01D24AF7.FE681FE0]





From: ["Quinlan, Kevin" <Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Kevin.Quinlan@vancouver.ca)  
To: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)  
["Kendall-Craden, Rena" <Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Rena.Kendall-Craden@vancouver.ca)  
Date: 11/30/2016 10:52:19 AM  
Subject: RE: Opioid overdose crisis

City, VCH and VPd should so an announcement once this is up and running

Could I suggest a daily (or every other day) email update on fentanyl/OD crisis and response from city – from someone like Chris van veen – lots going on and important we stay in the loop. Mayor is keen to be fully apprised of the situation as it evolves.

---

**From:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** Kendall-Craden, Rena; Quinlan, Kevin  
**Subject:** FW: Opioid overdose crisis

Hi-  
I have asked for a quick call with patty and adam on this today.  
Sadhu

---

**From:** Daly, Patty (VCH)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:03 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Sadhu; Palmer, Adam  
**Cc:** Zak, MaryClare; Gustafson, Reka (VCH); Compton, Miranda [VC]  
**Subject:** Opioid overdose crisis

Hi Sadhu and Adam – over the last 2 weeks, the opioid overdose emergency has escalated, particularly in Vancouver and Surrey, perhaps because of the arrival of carfentanil as reported by VPD. The BC Ambulance service and St. Paul's hospital emergency department are now overwhelmed on a daily basis with these overdoses.

This morning I had a conference call with Linda Lupini (Executive VP responsible for the ambulance at PHSA), along with our senior staff, and we agreed that we need to deploy the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) in the downtown eastside, with Oppenheimer Park the preferred location given the volume of calls to ambulance from that neighbourhood. If you are not familiar with the MMU, it is essentially a portable emergency department – it was purchased and deployed in Whistler for the 2010 Olympics, and is now owned by the province and used for health emergencies.

VCH will staff the unit with physicians and nurses who will manage overdoses to reduce the need to transport people to St. Paul's. We will also provide staff from our addictions team who can immediately link people to start treatment with suboxone or methadone.

Sadhu, Reka has already contacted Mary Clare to work with the city on the deployment – we don't have a date yet, but we hope within the next 1-2 weeks. Adam, we would also like to work with the police regarding security for the unit and staff.

Please let us know who we should work with on the details of the deployment – and thanks to both of you for all your support, particularly from VPD, in responding to this crisis.

Patricia Daly MD, FRCPC  
Vice-President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
#800-601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Phone: 604-675-3924  
Fax: 604-731-2756  
E-mail: [Patricia.Daly@vch.ca](mailto:Patricia.Daly@vch.ca)

Assistant: Mavis Chu  
Phone: 604-675-3918  
E-mail: [Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)



From: ["Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca)  
To: ["MacKenzie, Janice" <janice.mackenzie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:janice.mackenzie@vancouver.ca)  
["Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>](mailto:MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca)  
["Hildebrandt, Tina" <tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca)  
Date: 6/7/2016 10:47:12 AM  
Subject: Re: Patty Daly will present on fentanyl with Bonnie Henry

Col!

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604 873 7627  
T. Sadhuaajohnston

---

**From:** MacKenzie, Janice  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2016 11:24 AM  
**To:** Zak, MaryClare; Hildebrandt, Tina  
**Cc:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Subject:** RE: Patty Daly will present on fentanyl with Bonnie Henry

---

That's good news. Must have been a change in her schedule.

J

---

**From:** Zak, MaryClare  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 11:21 AM  
**To:** MacKenzie, Janice; Hildebrandt, Tina  
**Cc:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Subject:** Patty Daly will present on fentanyl with Bonnie Henry

Hi - we have Patty Daly Chief Medical Health Office for VCH on deck for fentanyl with Bonnie Hentry -see change below.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

---

**From:** Chu, Mavis [VC] <[Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 7, 2016 11:16 AM  
**To:** Zak, MaryClare; Craig, Keltie  
**Cc:** Solorzano, Juan [NS]  
**Subject:** RE: Speaker at Council: June 15 HCS Implementation

Hi Mary Clare,

Both Patty and Bonnie Henry will be speaking on the Fentanyl issue.

Regards,  
Mavis

---

**From:** Zak, MaryClare [<mailto:MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 9:23 AM  
**To:** Craig, Keltie; Chu, Mavis [VC]  
**Cc:** Solorzano, Juan [NS]  
**Subject:** RE: Speaker at Council: June 15 HCS Implementation

Hi there - is Patty is speaking on the Fentanyl issue instead of John Coarsely? Need to confirm this also

---

**From:** Craig, Keltie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 9:08 AM  
**To:** Chu, Mavis [VC]  
**Cc:** Solorzano, Juan [NS]; Zak, MaryClare  
**Subject:** RE: Speaker at Council: June 15 HCS Implementation

Hi Mavis, that is great news! I think it should be ok for you to register Patty as a speaker.

Cheers

Keltie

---

**From:** Chu, Mavis [VC] [<mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 07, 2016 8:01 AM  
**To:** Craig, Keltie  
**Cc:** Solorzano, Juan [NS]  
**Subject:** RE: Speaker at Council: June 15 HCS Implementation

Good morning Keltie,

I spoke with Patty and she is fine to speak on June 15<sup>th</sup> in regards to your request.

Can I go ahead and sign Patty up as a speaker for this item? Or will Patty have to do so herself?

Regards,  
Mavis

***Mavis Chu***

Executive Assistant to Dr. Patricia Daly  
Vice President, Public Health and  
Chief Medical Health Officer  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Suite 800 - 601 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2  
Telephone: 604-675-3918  
Facsimile: 604-731-2756  
e-mail address: [Mavis.Chu@vch.ca](mailto:Mavis.Chu@vch.ca)

---

**From:** Craig, Keltie [<mailto:Keltie.Craig@vancouver.ca>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 06, 2016 4:08 PM  
**To:** Chu, Mavis [VC]  
**Cc:** Solorzano, Juan [NS]  
**Subject:** Speaker at Council: June 15 HCS Implementation

Hello Mavis, would you be able to check in with Patty to see whether she would be available to speak at Council on June 15 morning, in support of the Healthy City Strategy Implementation Fund request? My understanding is that she will be at Council already that morning, to speak about the opioid emergency, so perhaps this would fit in well with her schedule. The HCS item would be next on the agenda.

If so, she needs to sign up as a speaker for this item by contacting clerks at [ccclerk@vancouver.ca](mailto:ccclerk@vancouver.ca)

The report ["Innovation Fund Recommendations to support Healthy City Strategy Action Plan (2015-2018) Implementation"] asks for a total of \$2.3 million over 3 years to implement select actions from the Healthy City Strategy. This consists of:

- \* a grant to build a Mental Health Hub at St. Paul's Hospital;
- \* a grant to BC Poverty Reduction Coalition to assist with poverty reduction initiatives;



- \* funding for a Living Wage contractor;
- \* funding for a public engagement contractor for newcomer immigrant populations;
- \* development of tools and training for City staff to better understand/empathize with those experiencing conditions that contribute to vulnerability (e.g. gendered violence, dementia, newcomer settlement, sex work, mental health & addictions);
- \* funding for Social Connections initiatives;
- \* funding for a 24 month Solutions Lab (civic innovation lab) for City staff; and
- \* creation of an online dashboard to monitor and report on our HCS progress.

**Keltie Craig, MCIP | Social Planner, Healthy City Strategy**

Social Policy & Projects | City of Vancouver

T: 604.673.8292 | [keltie.craig@vancouver.ca](mailto:keltie.craig@vancouver.ca)

[www.vancouver.ca/healthycity4all](http://www.vancouver.ca/healthycity4all)

From: ["Hildebrandt, Tina" <tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca>](mailto:tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca)  
To: ["Mayor's Office Staff - DL" <MASTAFF@vancouver.ca>](mailto:MASTAFF@vancouver.ca)  
["Councillors - DL" <CLELECTED@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CLELECTED@vancouver.ca)  
["City Manager's Office - DL" <CMCMODL@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CMCMODL@vancouver.ca)  
["CC Meeting Coordinators - DL" <ccmeetmgr@vancouver.ca>](mailto:ccmeetmgr@vancouver.ca)  
["Council Support \\(\COV\\) - DL" <CCCIOUSUP@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CCCIOUSUP@vancouver.ca)  
["CMT Admin Assts - DL" <CVCMTAA@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CVCMTAA@vancouver.ca)  
[Security <Security.COV@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Security.COV@vancouver.ca)  
["Zak, MaryClare" <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>](mailto:MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca)  
["Craig, Keltie" <Keltie.Craig@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Keltie.Craig@vancouver.ca)  
["Young, Carol Ann" <CarolAnn.Young@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CarolAnn.Young@vancouver.ca)  
["Hoese, Karen" <karen.hoese@vancouver.ca>](mailto:karen.hoese@vancouver.ca)  
["McNaney, Kevin" <kevin.mcnaney@vancouver.ca>](mailto:kevin.mcnaney@vancouver.ca)  
["Wanklin, Tom" <Tom.Wanklin@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Tom.Wanklin@vancouver.ca)  
["Joe, Wesley" <wesley.joe@vancouver.ca>](mailto:wesley.joe@vancouver.ca)  
["Mauboules, Celine" <celine.mauboules@vancouver.ca>](mailto:celine.mauboules@vancouver.ca)  
["Huber, Paula" <Paula.Huber@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paula.Huber@vancouver.ca)  
["CC Admin Services - DL" <CCADMSUP@vancouver.ca>](mailto:CCADMSUP@vancouver.ca)

Date: 6/14/2016 11:30:50 AM

Subject: SPEAKERS LIST: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services - June 15, 2016

**STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES  
JUNE 15, 2016**

**SPEAKERS LIST**

**MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Healthy City Update**

**a) Fentanyl Crisis: Public Health Emergency Response**

**STAFF:** Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy & Projects Division

**CO-**

**PRESENTERS:** Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Dr. Bonnie Henry, Deputy Provincial Health Officer

**b) Healthy City Strategy - Implementation Update and Innovation Fund Proposal**

**STAFF:** Mary Clare Zak, Managing Director, Social Policy & Projects Division

**VCH:** Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health and Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

**SPEAKERS:**

***Vancouver Coastal Health:***



Speaker No.	First Name	Last Name	Title and Organization
1	Dr. Patricia	Daly	Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

**Civic Agency Reps:**

Speaker No.	First Name	Last Name	Title and Organization
1	Steven	Eastman	Co-Chair, Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee
2	Penny	Karrigan	Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Advisory Committee

**Citizens:**

Speaker No.	First Name	Last Name	Title and Organization
1	Duane	Elverum	
2	Adrienne	Montani	Provincial Coordinator - First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition

**c) Mental Health Hub Project**

**CO-PRESENTERS:** Natasha Golbeck, Director of Strategy Deployment, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Jennifer Duff, Director of Mental Health, Providence Health Care









**Tina Hildebrandt** | Meeting Coordinator  
CITY OF VANCOUVER | City Clerk's Office  
604.873.7268 | [tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca](mailto:tina.hildebrandt@vancouver.ca)



*Scanned & sent  
to Kathleen &  
Maryclaire  
Dec 09/2016*

**Attn: City of Vancouver**

December 8, 2016

RE: opening of a combined dispensary and supervised injection site

To Whom It May Concern:

The fentanyl overdose crisis has now become critical and requires a multi-faceted response. Existing efforts have not been successful in reigning in the double-digit annual increases in fentanyl-detected deaths. New supervised injection sites are poised to open in an effort to contain the problem, and this letter is intended to provide you with details about the unique aspects of one such facility. We hope you will read the attached information and provide us with your comments, insights, and recommendations.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- 1) Introduce ourselves and open a dialogue regarding our plans to open a storefront clinic on E Hastings St that operates both as a dispensary and as a supervised injection site.
- 2) Provide you with an opportunity to meet with us in person prior to opening on issues relating to municipal regulation, licensing, or access for emergency personnel.
- 3) Solicit input from relevant city officials and departments on our planned operations using our clinic application form as the discussion document - attached to this letter.

The Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic plans to open in the Downtown Eastside in early 2017 as a front line community response initiative that provides evidence-based solutions to the fentanyl overdose crisis. We are committed to the four pillars drug strategy and will make every effort to be a cooperative, respectable and transparent member of the DTES community and OD response effort.

Our operations will be similar to that of Insite and cannabis dispensaries and our goal is to be treated by the city much the same as these organizations are. Our initiative is unique because we will be the first to dispense drugs that are at risk of fentanyl contamination. However, the city has previously demonstrated national leadership in the regulating of cannabis dispensaries, and recognizes the need for more supervised consumption sites. The need for DTES drug users to know what is in the drugs they are consuming has never been greater than now so our company intends to supply a legitimate demand.

For several weeks we have been consulting with local businesses, residents, and DTES services providers allowing for a dialogue on this topic and providing a point person for concerns. We would now like to extend an invitation to any interested parties within the City of Vancouver to meet with us over the next month or so to discuss issues like zoning, security, licensing, facility access, etc.

Our discrete storefront clinic will be located on E Hastings St between Main St and Dunlevy. We have contacted Health Canada and Vancouver Coastal Health regarding the licensing process for new supervised injection facilities and expect to receive authorization in the near future. We encourage you to visit us at [assistedconsumption.ca](http://assistedconsumption.ca) or contact us at 604-817-6961, [assistedconsumption@gmail.com](mailto:assistedconsumption@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Scott Gilbert  
Director, Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic



## Declaration of "At-Risk" Status for Accidental Fentanyl-Related Overdose

**Background:** B.C.'s chief health officer declared a public health emergency after numerous Coroner's Reports showing a sharp increase in the annual rates of drug related overdoses where fentanyl has been detected. Public health officials are issuing regular warnings that fentanyl is being used as a cutting agent in just about every drug on the street including heroin, methamphetamine, crack and cocaine.

**This Form:** This form is intended for presentation by a DTES drug user to a DTES healthcare or street outreach worker. This form is used to support the user's application for membership at the Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic, but does not ensure acceptance. This form is confidential, voluntary and non-binding. You are asked to confirm the following: 1) you know the true identity of the user, 2) you believe the user lives in the DTES or an SRO, 3) you believe the user to be at risk of an accidental fentanyl-related drug overdose. As a condition of acceptance into our program, we assess the risk factors of all applicants to ensure our limited resources are devoted to those most in need.

**About Us:** The Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic (VACC) opens in 2017 on East Hastings St in Vancouver, BC to provide emergency response solutions to DTES drug users – the highest risk population in Canada for ODs. At our clinic, we provide a clean and professional environment where at-risk users can safely and reliably access a supply of street drugs that have been properly tested in a lab environment and shown to be free of fentanyl. All users accepted into our program are required to consume the drugs we provide them inside our facility and under our supervision. Upon request, we also directly assist users with the act of injecting – a practice commonly referred to as "doctoring".

The need for regular lab testing of street-level drugs has been identified as a necessary tool to combat the fentanyl overdose crisis by Health Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health and the BC Centre for Disease Control. To date, our clinic is the first to provide this service in a comprehensive way with GC/MS confirmed samples allowing us to prove the drugs are free of fentanyl. Testing also provides an opportunity to establish a baseline overdose threshold for each opiate user – a number that fluctuates as factors related to tolerance change, but one that barely changes from day-to-day. If the threshold for overdose is accurately known, it can be consciously avoided. The only way to protect users from risk of accidental overdose is by testing for fentanyl, standardizing dosages, and monitoring consumption.

**Legal:** Similar to cannabis dispensaries and Insite, we operate in a legal grey area. The City of Vancouver has begun regulating dispensaries and formally asked Health Canada to license more Supervised Consumption Sites. After the recent change at the federal level, the director of Health Canada visited Insite and vowed to reduce barriers for others to establish facilities like it. Our clinic has applied for a Health Canada designation and will be transparent and cooperative at the municipal level. This form is not a prescription and does not constitute medical advice, endorsement of any product, or the declaration of any medical benefit. The drug user assumes all risk inherent to drug use.

**Declaration:** I am currently a healthcare or street outreach worker in Vancouver's downtown east side and I believe \_\_\_\_\_ to be at an increased risk of accidental fentanyl-related overdose.

*By signing this form, you agree that you have read this entire page, reviewed the completion of all required fields on the reverse of this page, and feel comfortable making the above declaration. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact info: \_\_\_\_\_



## Application Form – Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic (VACC)

This form is required as part of the application to VACC and is for completion by an active drug user with their healthcare or street outreach worker. Our clinic and harm reduction programs are intended to address certain risk factors for drug users in fentanyl-related overdose hotspots. These factors can change over time, so be advised that admission into our program does not ensure continued access to our services. We reserve the right to accept or refuse any application for any reason.

**\*All fields are mandatory. Information is kept confidential.**

Applicant (drug user) name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Emerg. Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_ Emerg. contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an Insite handle? Y / N      Are you homeless? Y / N      Positive? HIV / HepC

List all street and prescription drugs currently being used including tobacco, alcohol and marijuana:

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How do you consume your drugs? Circle all that apply: injecting, smoking, snorting, ingesting, other

What at-risk drugs do you use? Circle all that apply: crack, cocaine, heroin, meth, other: \_\_\_\_\_

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*On both pages of this form, the following terms are define as:*

“user” means the applicant to VACC, a DTES drug user, someone other than the person signing

“street outreach worker” means someone currently employed in a relevant professional position

“contact info” means telephone number or email address, plus street address if possible

“VACC” means Vancouver Assisted Consumption Clinic

“DTES” means Down Town East Side and refers to a region in Vancouver, Canada

All of our products are tested with a full GC/MS test to quantify and precisely measure the ingredients and potency of substances. Knowing the composition and purity of a substance allows for dosages to be standardized and the absence of contaminants ensured – the keys to avoiding accidental overdose. At our East Hastings St clinic we administer standardized dosages in a sterile and controlled environment.

We use only Vanishing Point© syringes, do not allow any drugs to leave our facility, and monitor every user for signs of overdose. These three distinguishing characteristics of our program mean we can ensure there is zero risk of disease transmission for all use at our facility, there is no opportunity for diversion of the drugs from a controlled setting to the black market, and there is a monitoring system in place with staff equipped to reverse the effects of overdose. Most importantly, our program ensures that nobody using our service will die of an accidental fentanyl-related overdose simply for using drugs.

For info call 604-817-6961, email [assistedconsumption@gmail.com](mailto:assistedconsumption@gmail.com) or visit [assistedconsumption.ca](http://assistedconsumption.ca)  
Form developed in consultation with Canadian Harm Reduction Network, VANDU and Pivot Legal

## 90% of drugs checked at Insite contain fentanyl

August 31, 2016

Vancouver, BC – Drug checking, offered at Insite for the first time as a pilot, has found that 86 per cent of drugs were positive for fentanyl, the dangerous drug responsible for hundreds of fatal overdoses.

“These initial results confirm our suspicion that the local drug supply is overwhelmingly contaminated with fentanyl,” says Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, medical health officer with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). “We’re hoping this information can help people who use drugs.”

Nurses at Insite have been offering each client a test strip so they can check their drugs at their injection station. The client dilutes their substance with a few drops of water and a positive or negative for fentanyl is revealed within seconds. This method exclusively checks for fentanyl and no other substances.

In the first month of testing, from July 7 to August 3, 173 checks were performed. When clients checked heroin or mixtures containing heroin 90 per cent of the checks were positive for fentanyl. Fewer checks were performed on cocaine, crack, speed and crystal meth and were less likely to be positive.

The results are being posted regularly at Insite for clients to view.

“We’ve heard from clients that they want to know what’s in their drugs,” says Dr. Lysyshyn. “With the number of overdoses rising it’s critical to empower people to learn about their risk of being exposed to this toxic substance. We’re hoping this will encourage them to use our harm reduction services like take-home naloxone kits, consider undergoing addiction treatment and take precautions like decreasing their dose or not using alone.”

“For the nurses it’s great to have another service we can offer to help reduce the risks for clients,” says Registered Nurse Marjory Ditmars, who works at Insite. “It also provides another opportunity to engage in those critically important harm reduction conversations around safer drug use.”

The test strips are a product originally developed to check urine for fentanyl, and not intended for drug-checking, so the Insite program is a pilot project. After several months, staff will evaluate the results to determine if it’s helping clients and whether to continue the service.

Even though the number of daily visits to Insite has remained steady over the years, there were four times as many overdoses (573) at Insite from January to July as there were during the same period a decade ago (132 overdoses in Jan.- July 2006). Nurses are also eight times more likely to have to use naloxone to reverse overdose in 2016 compared to 2006. There have been no fatal overdoses at Insite since it opened in 2003.

“Checking drugs at Insite is just one initiative involved in our comprehensive response battle to fight this public health crisis,” says Dr. Patricia Daly, Chief Medical Health Officer and the Vice President, Public Health for VCH. “We are also expanding low barrier addiction services, increasing availability of naloxone kits to treat overdoses and expanding supervised injection services.”



# WARNING

FENTANYL, A POTENTIALLY DEADLY OPIATE, HAS BEEN FOUND IN HEROIN, CRYSTAL, COCAINE, CRACK, E AND EVEN WEED.

Whether you smoke, snort or inject...

## DONT. USE. ALONE.

Test your dose and if you inject, USE INSITE

Call 911 right away if you experience OD symptoms!

## GET TRAINED ON NARCAN!

Get FREE on-the-spot Narcan training at the Drug Users Resource Centre.

It's safe and easy to use. No questions asked.

Training is completely confidential.

## GET TRAINED! SAVE A LIFE!

For more info contact the Drug Users Resource Centre  
412 East Cordova Street | ph. 604. 678.8278 email. [duroc@pds.ca](mailto:duroc@pds.ca)



insite

DRUG USERS RESOURCE CENTRE

# FENTANYL

CAN BE DEADLY WHEN CUT WITH THE DRUGS YOU'RE TAKING

## KNOW YOUR SOURCE? BE DRUG SMART

[KNOWYOURSOURCE.CA](http://KNOWYOURSOURCE.CA)

