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Subject: City calls for federal and provincial support of low-barrier opioid distribution pilot

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Mayor Gregor Robertson, with support from the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, is calling for the federal and provincial government to fully support the implementation of an innovative low-barrier opioid distribution pilot, led by the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) Dr. Mark Tyndall, in Vancouver. The pilot, which would provide a clean and safe alternative to tainted and illicit drugs through a dispensing machine, seems one of the only options available to address this deadly, toxic street drug market.

In April 2018, City Council directed staff to support the BCCDC's pilot program and to help facilitate it as needed, including consideration of access to space or financial contributions.

This contaminated drug supply continues to drive the crisis and put pressure on first responders. A total of 577 overdose calls were made to Vancouver Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) in April 2018, the highest number of calls made in one month since May 2017.

Best,
Sadhu

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