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**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
**Date:** 4/12/2019 4:14:40 PM  
**Subject:** Upcoming NR - Overdose Deaths

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Sunday, April 14, 2019 marks the 1090th day since B.C. declared the increase in overdose deaths as a public health emergency, and we recognize the many lives lost to overdose prior to this declaration. Since April 14, 2016, more than 3,600 people have lost their lives to overdose in B.C. with more than 1,000 of these deaths happening in Vancouver. Driven by an increasingly toxic, unregulated drug supply that is contaminated by fentanyl, carfentanil, and other contaminants, deaths from drug poisoning in Vancouver have increased every year since 2014, and the number of deaths continues to surpass historical highs. In B.C., the number of deaths from drug poisoning in 2019 currently equates to about 2.9 deaths per day, with Indigenous people being overrepresented due to the ongoing impacts of colonization.

As directed by a motion from Vancouver City Council, in recognition of the lives that have been lost and are continuing to be lost in the overdose crisis, the City of Vancouver will fly the city's flag at half-mast on this day each year until B.C.'s provincial health officer rescinds the current state of public health emergency.

City staff will be sending a news release about this on Sunday, April 14. More information can be found at [vancouver.ca/overdose](http://vancouver.ca/overdose)

Best,  
Sadhu

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*The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.*