



Memo to Council

Date: April 27, 2023

Subject: Naloxone Training for Front Line City Staff – Motion Served by Councillors Agtarap and Lurbiecki

Motion Served

Notice of the following motion was provided at the April 25, 2023, Regular Council meeting:

THAT staff investigate options and costs for training front-line city staff and the provision of Naloxone kits at all City owned facilities.

Background

On April 14, 2016, the Provincial Health Officer declared the overdose crisis a public health emergency. Since 2016, over 11,000 people have succumbed to toxic drugs in BC, including almost 300 Tri-Cities residents.¹

Accidental death due to toxic drugs is the leading cause of death for ages 10-18 and 19-39 years of age. For ages 40-59, illicit drug toxicity is tied as the leading cause of death with malignant cancers.²

Statistics show over 70% of overdose deaths in 2022 were people aged 30-59, and 79% of these deaths were men. Deaths primarily occurred in private residences. The opioid fentanyl or its analogues has been linked to the majority of fatal overdoses.

The provincial government has decriminalized illicit drugs for personal use, but this does not reduce the harm from toxic drugs. Naloxone kits³ are easily accessible and simple to use with less than an hour of training and when administered correctly can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Given that the City's facilities serve a diverse population of all ages, it is suggested that all front-line city staff receive training with naloxone and kits are accessible at every public City-owned facility.

¹ BC Coroners Service, [Unregulated Drug Deaths - Local Health Area of Injury](#), accessed April 25, 2023.

² BC CBC Mortality Context App, [BCCDC Mortality Context App \(shinyapps.io\)](#), accessed April 24, 2023.

³ Note that while naloxone kits are free to the public, and meant to be obtained via pharmacies, not every pharmacy carries kits or enacts barriers (such as asking for your name).

Council Strategic Priorities

The recommendation supports the following objective: Healthy Community Development – Enhance Community Wellbeing.

Council Options

The following options are available for Council consideration:

1. Receive for information.
2. Refer to staff for a report back on the feasibility of the proposed motion considering budget, alignment with Council's Strategic Priorities, and work plan implications, including but not limited to operational capacity, policy, legality, etc.
3. Other.