



June 2, 2022

Dear Mayor Horn and Council,

On May 31, the Federal Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Carolyn Bennett and her provincial counterpart, Sheila Malcolmson, announced measures to allow adults in British Columbia to possess small amounts of some illicit drugs starting next year. The announcement is in response to a request from the province for an exemption from the law criminalizing drug possession, which further stigmatizes people who are at risk in this seventh year of the Fentanyl Poisoning Provincial Health Emergency.

In BC, 6 people a day are killed by the poisoned illicit drug supply. In Mission, the number of deaths, 13 in the first quarter of 2022, is over 4 times the number of people for the whole of 2021. This needed policy change, is aimed at addressing health needs. It will no doubt generate much community discussion and it is timely for us to bring community together to do just that.

Mission Community Overdose Team (MOCAT) is writing to request sponsorship for a community symposium on substance use, July 6, cohosted with the city of Mission. We are requesting to have the cost of the venue, Clarke Theatre, refreshments, honoraria for people with lived and living experience to share their expertise, guest speakers, promotion to the community, and an event facilitator.

Proposed Budget for Costs:

Honoraria - \$1000

Facilitator - \$700

Promotion - \$300

Refreshments - \$500

Venue – in-kind

We look forward to working in collaboration with the City of Mission on the symposium and other initiatives to make Mission a safer place to live for all residents. Thank you for the consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Kat Wahamaa, M Ed. ASC  
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***I gratefully acknowledge that I live, work and play on the unceded, ancestral and traditional lands of the Stó:lō people, particularly the Sq'ewlets, Matsqui, Kwantlen and Leq'á:mel First Nations.***