



March 12, 2024

Courtenay Mayor and Council
890 Cliffe Av,
Courtenay BC. V9N 2J7

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Dear Mayor Wells and Council Members

We are writing to you on behalf of the Comox Valley Substance Use Collaborative to support Councillor Jolicoeur's motion at the March 13, 2024 Council meeting, related to mental health and addiction medical treatment beds.

As you know, in 2022/23, Walk With Me, a community-engaged research initiative, held conversations with people with lived/living experience and service providers to map the gaps and strengths in the substance use support system in the Comox Valley. The research report "*Walking Together Towards a Stronger, More Integrated Substance Use Support Network in the Comox Valley*" is the companion report to the Comox Valley Substance Use Strategy and all the recommendations from the research report are included in the strategy.

One of the major gaps identified by the participants in the research was the need for local medical detox services. Details of the issue and damage enacted by the lack of an established Comox Valley medical detox service is expanded on in the report on pages 21-27. Damage suffered by Peers transitioning to and from an out-of-town service, and the harms produced by the extensive wait-times to access this service are expanded on in the report. Some of the research information in the report may be useful when advocating for and requesting treatment beds in the Comox Valley.

As the development of the Substance Use Strategy in the valley has included all the regional government partners, we also endorse asking those partners for support with this motion. A regional response to addressing substance use in the Comox Valley and acting together is the only way we are going to make a significant difference to the health of many of our community members.

We are also prepared to contact the Premier, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and CMHA-BC to support your request to them.

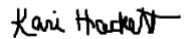
Kind regards,



Betty Tate
Leadership Team,
Comox Valley Community Health Network



Sharon Karsten
Researcher
Walk With Me



Kari Hackett
Coordinator, CV Substance Use Strategy

CC: Geoff Garbutt, CAO, City of Courtenay