

Enhanced Overdose Prevention Services in Comox Valley

City of Courtenay
Council delegation
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Background

- Island health is actively engaged in development of a fixed site for inhalation Overdose Prevention Services (OPS)
- Fixed location OPS are one part of continuum of services deployed and supported by Island Health as part of the Toxic Drug Crisis response
- Limitations of current site OPS are recognized
- Island Health is committed to providing an OPS site which includes inhalation

Actions taken

- **Early 2022:** funding approved to develop OPS with inhalation
- **July 2022:** RFP issued to the community on BC Bid
 - Two responses received to RFP; neither met criteria due to service model and/or no suitable or available sites
 - RFP closed August 2022
- **Fall/Winter 2022-23:** Review of lease sites in City; 1 suitable site identified but it was not available for OPS service
- **Winter/Spring 2023:** Review of Island Health sites for possible location of temporary OPS inhalation service
 - 941 England Ave identified as an option

Current access to observed inhalation

- Mobile OPS services currently in place at Outreach service locations
 - This service will be extended, subject to staffing, across weekends as of April 1
- Episodic OPS/witnessing services is happening across Island Health MHSU service locations as requested or required
 - Cliffe Avenue location, England Street vicinity

941 England Ave – possible temporary fixed site for inhalation OPS

- Located close to the current injection OPS
- Site considered temporary solution; long term OPS to be included with future Island Health service location planning
 - Feb 10: Review of England St site; architectural consultation completed
 - Project team currently working with landlord
 - Expect architectural drawings mid-March
- Future Steps:
 - Consultation with service users and engagement with peers
 - On receipt of landlord approval, plans will be submitted to the City for review and request any required permits