

NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

MISSION STATEMENT

The North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Abuse will support community organizations to reduce the impact and incidence of substance abuse on the North Shore through advocacy, collaboration and leadership.

MEETING

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Committee Room, District Hall
355 W. Queens Rd, North Vancouver

MINUTES

Present:

Cpl Richard DeJong, RCMP
Tanis Evans, Vancouver Coastal Health
Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, NS Medical Health Officer
Mardean Neuman, Tsleil Waututh First Nation
Joanne Ronsley, Lions Bay Representative

Cllr Christine Cassidy, Councillor, DWV
Cllr Doug MacKay-Dunn, Councillor, DNV

Staff:

Annie Mauboules, DNV Staff Liaison
Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison
Annie Dempster, CNV (in place of Heather)
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk
Charmaine Thomas, Squamish First Nation
Trustee Dave Stevenson, WV School District
Trustee Jessica Stanley, NV School District
Heather Evans, CNV Staff Liaison

Regrets:

Cllr Linda Buchanan, Councillor, CNV
Cllr Maureen Nicholson, Councillor, Bowen
Constable John McCormack, WV Police Dept.
Chris Kennedy, RCMP Superintendent

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by the Chair, Cllr MacKay-Dunn.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOVED BY Dr. Lysyshyn and seconded by Cpl DeJong
To adopt the agenda.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes from June 21, 2017

MOVED BY Ms. Ronsley and seconded by Ms. Neuman
To adopt the minutes.

CARRIED

4. Legalization of Cannabis: Discussion & Recommendations

Members discussed and provided the following recommendations on the key considerations for cannabis legalization and regulation in BC. The recommendations were developed with a focus on public education, research and evaluation:

Minimum Age

- There was consensus that the minimum age for cannabis correspond to the minimum age for alcohol to avoid confusion with different age requirements for each substance. The committee recommends that the minimum age be set to 19 with an educational component around the ramifications of cannabis use and how to reduce harm.

Personal Possession - Adults

- The committee did not oppose the amount of 30 grams for personal possession; however, the possession amount should be for personal or social use only, and not for resale purposes. The committee recommends that a personal possession limit of zero be imposed in or around school grounds.

Personal Possession – Youth

- The committee agreed that the possession limit for youth should be zero but that punishment for possessing small amounts of cannabis should be administrative as opposed to criminal in nature.

Public Consumption

- Members discussed the perception and effects of second hand smoke and accordingly, the committee recommends that the same restrictions for tobacco be imposed on cannabis use. The committee also recommends that within moving vehicles and in public places such as schools, parks, playgrounds, beaches be included in the restrictions.

Drug-Impaired Driving

- Concern was expressed that there may not be technology to standardize roadside testing. The Committee indicated a consensus with the Federal government's recommendation that different levels of THC could be associated with penalties. The committee recommends that the same standard as alcohol impaired driving be imposed on cannabis use, a zero tolerance when cannabis is combined with alcohol, and a zero tolerance around drivers with an "N" or "L" licence. The committee further recommends more research be undertaken to develop roadside and lab tests and that funding is available to provide more resources and staffing to enforce regulations.

Personal Cultivation

- The committee recommends a 5 plant limit, and that growing cannabis be for personal use and not for re-sale purposes.

Distribution Model

- The committee recommends that cannabis distribution be in a designated shop, separate from alcohol, and run by government.

Retail

- The committee recommends that local governments be able to control retail through zoning.

5. Men's Support Recovery House

The men's support recovery house is now built and is identical to the women's support recovery house, however, given new provincial direction, some licencing issues have arisen which has

delayed the opening of the house. A letter was sent to Turning Point regarding licensing requirements and they will respond to any outstanding questions VCH has. Staff will update the committee on the progress as it becomes available.

Plans are underway for a community open house, and once finalized, members and stakeholders will be invited to attend.

6. Update on Fentanyl (VCH)

- Fentanyl continues to be a problem; however, indicators show a downward trend possibly as a result of overdose prevention sites being opened and that drugs may not be as toxic.
- Overdose prevention sites are working and VCH is looking to expand them with possible sites on the North Shore.
- Continuing with Naloxone program and supervised injection sites.
- A new drug checking project is underway in Vancouver. A model for community sites is in development.
- Injectable treatment may come to the North Shore.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2018.

8. Any other Business

No other business was presented.

9. Adjournment

On a motion made, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.