

## NORTH SHORE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### MINUTES

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 5:00 – 6:30 pm

VIA MS TEAMS

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#### Present:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV (Chair)  
Nick Bell, West Vancouver Police Department  
Pat Domodossola, North Vancouver RCMP  
(on behalf of Ghalib Bhayani)  
Cyndi Gerlach, School Trustee, NV School District  
Chris Van Veen, Vancouver Coastal Health  
Interim Medical Health Officer

#### Regrets:

Cllr Peter Lambur, Councillor, DWV  
Cllr Maureen Nicholson, Councillor, Bowen Island  
Joanne Ronsley, Lions Bay Representative  
Deanna Lewis, Squamish First Nation  
Cllr Jen Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh First Nation Band  
Dave Stevenson, School Trustee, WV School

#### Staff:

Eirikka Brandson, DNV Staff Liaison  
Renee St. Croix, CNV Staff Liaison  
Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison  
Mary Jukich, Committee Clerk

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### 1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members were introduced and welcomed to the Committee.

### 2. Election of Vice-Chair

A call was made for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Cllr. Hanson nominated Nick Bell and no further nominations were received.

MOTION without objection

TO elect Nick Bell as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

### 3. Adoption of Agenda

A minor typographical error was noted on the agenda.

Nick Bell moved and Trustee Cyndi Gerlach seconded  
To adopt the agenda as amended.

**CARRIED**

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Trustee Cyndi Gerlach moved and Nick Bell seconded  
To adopt the March 10, 2021 minutes.

**CARRIED**

**5. Revision to Committee Name to “Substance Use” from “Substance Abuse”**

Cllr Hanson moved and Nick Bell seconded

The name of the Committee be changed from “North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Abuse” to “North Shore Standing Committee on Substance Use” as it is more fitting with the general sentiment of our community of naming of such Committees and to put the emphasis on harm reduction.

**CARRIED**

**6. Update from Vancouver Coastal Health**

Chris Van Veen, Vancouver Coastal Health – Director, Strategic Initiatives and Public Health Planning provided a presentation on “Decriminalization in Vancouver”. The purpose of the presentation and discussion focussed on the provincial overdose surveillance data that was previously presented at the March meeting, and provided an introduction to decriminalization and establish how this differs from legalization and from addiction treatment. The presentation also focussed on the recent request from the City of Vancouver to the Federal government to decriminalize small amounts of substances for personal possession within their city limits.

**7. Discussion Topics for Next Meeting**

The following ideas were presented as possible discussion items for the next meeting:

- A presentation on the relationship between homelessness and substance use. In this regard, it was noted that there could be some initiatives around homelessness that may be completed or in progress and some of that information could also be added to the discussion. As well, there are consultants working on a project funded by the North Shore Homelessness Task Force and their Situational Report will be completed by the end of June and could provide information about the North Shore.
- In terms of the next meeting, a suggestion was also presented that the Committee consider making a recommendation to the Federal government in favour of regulation and legalization of all substances in order to save lives.

**Action: Cllr Hanson will draft wording around a proposed motion as well as context around the motion which will be circulated to the Committee.**

**8. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.