

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, May 29, 2019 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Members in attendance:

Cllr James Hanson, Councillor, DNV
Cllr Peter Lambur, Councillor, DWV
Cllr Maureen Nicholson, Councillor, Bowen Island
Mike Bhatti, RCMP

Dr. Mark Lysyshyn, NS Medical Health Officer
Trustee Dave Stevenson, WV School District

Constable Nick Bell, WV Police Dept.

Staff:

Natasha Letchford, DNV Staff Liaison
Heather Evans, CNV Staff Liaison (arrived at 5:40 pm)
Arleta Beckett, DWV Staff Liaison
Frazer Mitchell, Committee Clerk

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 5:17pm by the chair Dr. Lysyshyn

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Adoption of Minutes

4. Minutes from the February 13, 2019 meeting will be brought forward for adoption at the next meeting.

5. First Nations Cannabis Committee (Deanna Lewis)

6. This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7. Update on Legalization of Cannabis (Dr. Mark Lysyshyn)

- Members discussed the proposals of edibles, specifically child resistant packaging, and no additives being added to the products (caffeine, sugar)
- Bowen Island has opened its first cannabis shop – Happy Isle
- The DNV will be bringing forward a policy to permit cannabis shops in the town centres and at a minimum of 200m from schools.

DWV does not permit cannabis shops within its boundaries. If a cannabis shop wishes to open it will be considered on a case by case basis.

- Vaping nicotine is a concern with youth in schools

- Students can conceal vaping more easily than smoking which is a problem
- Overall vaping is likelier healthier than cigarettes, but neither would be better.
- Vaping may serve as a useful alternative to cigarettes for adults; however, youth's developing brains can still be harmed by nicotine. Many youth who may not have smoked are vaping.

8. Update on Fentanyl (Dr. Mark Lysyshyn)

- North Shore has one of the lowest death rates in the province
- The rate of Carfentanil being found in drugs has increased in 2019
- While the number of overdoses has not significantly decreased, the number of deaths by overdose have. This tells us that interventions have proven to be effective
- Opioid treatment for users is being offered and used but not continued by 75% of treatment patients
- Cannabis, in other jurisdictions such as the US, has been shown to be protective against opioid overdose.
- Trying to implement more drug testing at festivals and events to ensure safety While the North Shore is not a high priority for new overdose prevention sites as the death rate is lower than other areas; the North Shore would benefit from an Overdose Prevention Site at the Lookout shelter.

9. Any Other Business

- Brief discussion regarding driving and cannabis. The police and RCMP have not noticed an increase in impairment charges due to cannabis use. Anecdotally, there are approximately 4 or 5 alcohol impairment charges to every one cannabis impairment charge.
- Request to bring the 2008 McCreary Report forward to the next meeting

10. Next Meeting Date

- November. Proposed dates to be circulated by the committee clerk.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.