



Statement - Establishment of Overdose Prevention Service

January 17, 2017

The following update concerns the recent steps taken by Island Health and the City of Nanaimo to address the immediate need for an overdose prevention service in Nanaimo.

On January 12, 2017, Nanaimo City Council approved the use of 437 Wesley Street as the location for a temporary Overdose Prevention Service (OPS), with the daily delivery of this service being provided by Island Health. In addition, Council also directed City staff to support Island Health in establishing the OPS by helping them undertake a public engagement process with adjacent neighbours and businesses for the purpose of (1) providing information on the operation of the service, (2) identifying any impacts and required mitigation and (3) addressing comments and concerns from the surrounding neighbourhood.

Through the remaining interim and longer-term periods, the City of Nanaimo will continue to provide assistance to Island Health while they administer their mandated response to the current overdose crisis in BC.