

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



January 28, 2022

File No. 0400-60

Dear UBCM Member Municipalities,

I am reaching out to local governments in British Columbia to urge your support for Private Members Bill C-216, Health-Based Approach to the Substance Use Act, which has received first reading in the House of Commons.

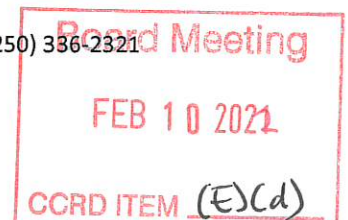
The proposed Act would amend the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and enact the Expungement of Certain Drug-related Convictions Act and the National Strategy on Substance Use Act. Under Bill C-216, the National Strategy proposes to:

- (a) address the harm associated with the criminalization of substance use;
- (b) ensure that interventions are founded on evidence-based best practices and address the root causes of problematic substance use;
- (c) ensure low-barrier access to a safe supply of medically regulated substances;
- (d) provide universal access to recovery, treatment and harm reduction services for problematic substance use and substance use disorder, including overdose prevention services, relapse prevention services and supervised consumption sites and services;
- (e) implement evidence-based prevention programs that address social and economic factors that contribute to problematic substance use; and
- (f) reduce the stigma associated with substance use, including through outreach and public awareness programs.

Cumberland Council has expressed its support for Bill C-216 to Prime Minister Trudeau and to the Minister of Health and Addictions Carolyn Bennett and I would encourage your Council or Board to do the same in an effort to finally secure Federal aid on decriminalization, safe supply and access to recovery, treatment and harm reduction services.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie Baird
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



January 28, 2022

File No. 0400-40

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health and Addictions
Carolyn.Bennett@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

I am very pleased to be able to write to you in support of the Private Members Bill C-216, Health-based Approach to the Substance Use Act, which received first reading on December 15, 2021 and which is sponsored by Gord Johns, Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni.

The Council of the Village of Cumberland endorses the National Strategy to address the harm associated with the criminalization of substance use and to ensure that interventions are founded on evidence-based best practices to address the root causes of problematic substance use.

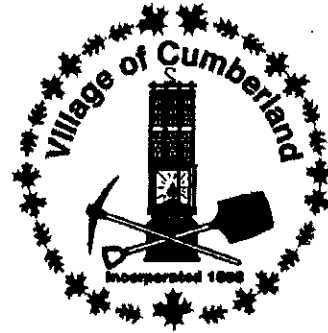
In 2016, harm reduction was restored as a key pillar of Canada's drug strategy with the establishment of the Canadian Drug and Substances Strategy, however further measures are needed to protect the lives of Canadians. I trust that you will support Bill C-216 in order to provide federal aid on decriminalization, safe supply and access to recovery, treatment and harm reductions services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Baird", is written over a horizontal line.

Leslie Baird
Mayor

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January 28, 2022

File No. 0400-40

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister,

I am very pleased to be able to write to you in support of the Private Members Bill C-216, Health-based Approach to the Substance Use Act, which received first reading on December 15, 2021 and which is sponsored by Gord Johns, Member of Parliament for Courtenay-Alberni.

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Yours sincerely,

Leslie Baird
Mayor