

March 29, 2019

Adrian Dix
Minister of Health
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Victoria, BC, V8W 9E2

Susan Brown
President and CEO
Interior Health
505 Doyle Avenue
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Minister Dix and Ms. Brown

On behalf of the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce (GVCC), I am formally requesting that the process to evaluate bids for an overdose prevention site in Vernon be more inclusive, so that the perspective of the business community be considered. We feel that it is critical to the success of the overdose prevention site that the voice of business be part of the process, along with the City of Vernon, Interior Health and other stakeholders.

The Chamber appreciates that there is a public health care emergency in B.C. and overdose prevention sites are part of the strategy to save lives. If Interior Health and the Ministry of Health want to ensure the success of an overdose prevention site in Vernon, the concerns of the local business community will need to be addressed.

The GVCC is the largest organization representing businesses (500+) in Vernon, and requests that direct interaction with the business community prior to the selection of a facility contractor and site, and during the bid evaluation process be provided as follows:

1. Businesses and commercial property owners be consulted in respect to when, and where an overdose prevention site opens in Vernon; and
2. The overdose prevention facility operator bid evaluation process and selection committee include representation from the GVCC and the Vernon business community.

With the request for proposals for a facility operator now issued, time is of the essence to establish the evaluation team and to reassure Vernon businesses and residents that they have a voice in the process.

Thank you for your attention in this matter and we look forward to discussing our request with the Ministry of Health and Interior Health.

Sincerely,



Diana Wilson, President
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

cc. MLA Eric Foster