



PROCLAMATION

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS

- WHEREAS** *International Day of Awareness is an event in support of all those affected by the toxic drug crisis with the purpose of remembering loved ones lost to overdose, the drug toxicity crisis, and ending the stigma of drug-related deaths; and,*
- WHEREAS** *IDOA highlights that 2021 and 2022 each recorded more deaths than ever since the public health emergency was declared in 2016, with the Comox Valley often having higher rates of toxic drug deaths than the overall rate for the Island Health region. 37 community members lost their lives in 2022 alone and countless friends, family, loved ones left to grieve; and,*
- WHEREAS** *The City of Courtenay affirms and acknowledges the harm and hardship caused by drug overdose and the drug toxicity crisis; and,*
- WHEREAS** *Through IDOA we send a strong message to substance users that they are valued, and that the community is working to mitigate harms and impacts of the toxic drug supply; and,*
- WHEREAS** *We support those who use substances by urging government and health decision-makers to create evidence-based policies and wide access to treatments; and,*
- WHEREAS** *We affirm that the people affected by overdose and the drug toxicity crisis are our children, our parents, our siblings, and deserving of our love, compassion and support; and,*
- WHEREAS** *Through IDOA we wish to prevent deaths due to the toxic drug supply and stimulate discussion in Courtenay about overdose prevention and share information on services available to our community;*
- NOW THEREFORE** *I, Bob Wells, Mayor of the City of Courtenay, do hereby proclaim August 31st, 2023 as “INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS” in Courtenay, B.C.*

Mayor Bob Wells