



## **PROCLAMATION**

### **INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AND DRUG TOXICITY CRISIS AWARENESS DAY**

- WHEREAS** *International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is a global event with the purpose of remembering loved ones lost to overdose and the drug toxicity crisis and ending the stigma of drug-related deaths; and,*
- WHEREAS** *IOAD highlights that 2021 recorded more deaths than ever recorded since the public health emergency was declared in 2016, and our community saw a 150% increase in fatalities over the previous year with 35 community members losing their lives 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 IOAD 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 sons and daughters, our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, and deserving of our love, compassion and support; and,*
- WHEREAS** *Through IOAD 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, 2022 as “**INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AND DRUG TOXICITY CRISIS AWARENESS DAY**” in Courtenay, B.C.*

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*Mayor Bob Wells*