



# City of Courtenay

## Proclamation International Overdose Awareness Day 2025

WHEREAS International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) is a global event with the purpose of remembering loved ones lost to overdose, the drug toxicity crisis, and ending the stigma of drug-related deaths; and,

WHEREAS IOAD highlights that in 2024 alone, 33 community members lost their lives, with a total of 220 deaths in the Comox Valley since the public health emergency was declared in 2016, leaving behind countless friends, family, and 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 children, our parents, our siblings, 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, hereby proclaim August 31, 2025, as **“International Overdose Awareness Day”** in Courtenay, BC.



Mayor Bob Wells