



Coroners Service

UPDATE TO SECTION 15 POLICY

A reminder of the [recent update to the Section 15 policy](#). The policy has been revised to produce efficiencies and reduce the cost of off-site file storage.

- A paper copy of the Report of Death form (S. 15) is no longer required, and;
- The final paper file will now be stored electronically on Tosca

UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

The Burnaby Metro office has now switched to the UC phone system and most individuals have new phone numbers. Here is a link to the [updated internal staff directory](#) as of **Jan. 10, 2019**.

For those who have a new phone number since transitioning to Unified Communications, please update your phone number in the Government Address Directory (GAL) which you can access [here](#) so that your contact information displays correctly in Outlook.

Click on **Update Gal Information** which appears under the menu in the top left hand box.

It's also recommended that you record a voicemail on your old phone number re-directing callers to your new UC phone number. These voicemails should still work until the actual phones are taken away and the lines deleted.

Have other questions about getting the most out of your new UC phone?

Check out the [UC Orientation Guide](#) available online through the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

THIS ISSUE:

Section 15 Policy Update

*Health & Wellness
Resources for Employees*

*Death Investigation
Podcasts*

*Staffing News: Comings &
Going*

News You Can Use

CORONERS CALENDAR

Jan 31: Deadline for 2018
[BCCS Exemplary Service
Nominations](#)

Feb. 13-14:
BCCS Administrative Staff
Conference (Burnaby)

Feb 13: [Moose Hide
Campaign](#)

Feb 14: Women's Memorial
March (Downtown
Eastside)

Feb 19: Mann Inquest
Begins (Burnaby)

Feb 27: [Pink Shirt Day](#)

HERE'S TO A HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Did you know that there are a number of confidential employee and family assistance services available to you through Morneau Shepell?

These services include access to short term counselling and other assistance from nutritional advice to help with financial and legal matters.

Unsure where to start or how to go about finding information? You can download this handy [Healthy Workplace Resource Sheet \(PDF\)](#) put together by the BC Public Service Agency with links and information on how to access these services and supports.

Other workplace information about programs and resources can be accessed 24/7 on [MyHR](#). Look for information about ongoing Healthy Minds workshops, resources for quitting smoking, mindfulness meditation and other topics related to wellness.



STAFFING NEWS: COMINGS & GOINGS

Deanna Thomson will be retiring on **Feb. 13** after a career spanning 20 years in the BC Public Service. She joined the Coroners Service in 2016. We wish her the best as she heads into retirement!



Melissa Bruni will be stepping into the administrative assistant position for the Metro Region in a permanent full-time capacity. She has been with the Coroners Service for the past year and approximately two months performing a variety of roles within the Fraser and Metro Regions.

CORONERS TALK

If you are interested in podcasts about death investigations and related training articles, videos and other information about the work of coroners and death scene investigations in the U.S., you may wish to visit www.coronertalk.com. Thank you to Chico Newell for sharing the link to this website.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Stakeholder News

- From the Globe and Mail on Jan. 12: [Mark Tyndall is stepping down as executive director of the B.C. Centre for Disease Control](#), a position he has held since 2014. He will be replaced in the interim by David Patrick.
- The federal government is creating [a new external advisory board of civilian advisors to help the RCMP](#) modernize amid a history of bullying and harassment, as reported on Tuesday by CTV News.

Donation Bin Fatalities

- As an update to the recent media coverage surrounding recent fatalities from donation bins, [Research Co. released poll results](#) indicating that seven out of 10 British Columbians support removing the bins from use.

On Jan. 15, Vancouver city council voted to force all clothing donation bins off private land. Delta has ordered removal of clothing donation bins along with Richmond and Burnaby. As of Jan 17, Pitt Meadows is now the fourth city in B.C. to ban clothing donation bins. The City of Surrey is reviewing the safety of clothing bins as well as Maple Ridge. Several charities have already voluntarily removed their bins.

Illicit Drug Death Overdose

- A [first-of-its-kind opioid addiction treatment program, led by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority](#), first piloted in Vancouver will soon roll out across the rest of the province.
- [Vancouver city council comes together to advocate for safe drug supply](#) after a unanimous vote to approve the city's opioid-overdose reduction strategy.
- The Georgia Straight reports on Adapt Pharma's efforts to bring [Nasal Narcan to B.C.'s overdose-epidemic response](#).
- As a counterpoint, CBC News reports on how one [health official questions the value of handing out free naloxone spray](#).

Harm Reduction

- CBC News reported on the [Kootenay's first overdose prevention site that recently opened in Nelson](#).

Medical Assistance in Dying

- David Lametti's appointment as Justice Minister [raises hope for a less restrictive assisted-dying law](#).
- From Global News: [Six professional orders in Quebec demand that the provincial government launch a legal challenge against the federal legislation for medically assisted deaths](#).

Have a news item that you would like to share in a future update? Please email patricia.schandi@gov.bc.ca by Thursday at noon each week along with any visuals you might have to include. Thanks!