



February 25, 2016

Ref: 185772

Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner
Ministry of Justice
Province of British Columbia
Email: Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Lapointe:

Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2016, and attached report regarding the recommendations from the Youth and Young Adult Overdose Death Review Panel.

The Ministry of Education recognizes the seriousness of the report and welcomes the recommendations you have shared. While the report is extremely tragic, the Ministry appreciates the value of this report to help prevent overdose deaths of young people within the province.

The Ministry is in the process of updating the physical education curriculum. As a result, the new Physical and Health Education (PHE) curriculum will provide opportunities for Kindergarten to Grade 9 students to learn about the impact of substance use and overdosing, as well as how to respond to someone in distress. In addition, under the new PHE curriculum, students will understand of the basic principles for responding to emergencies and be expected to have knowledge of the different types of substances, how to use them safely, or avoid them. Students will also be taught strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe or abusive situations, as well as strategies to protect themselves and others from the potential abuse, exploitation and harm in a variety of settings. The PHE curriculum will teach students about the different factors that influence the use of psychoactive substances and the potential harm, as well as the physical, emotional and social aspects of psychoactive substance use and addictive behaviours.

Having recognized the seriousness of this report, the Ministry will ensure all superintendents, boards of education and other key partners are made aware of this report. It is a vital part of our role to convey the importance of knowing when and how to respond to someone in distress, including overdose situations to our youth.

.../2

If you have further questions regarding the new PHE curriculum, how it will educate students in the prevention and intervention of drugs and alcohol; I encourage you to contact Lisa Dominato, A/Executive Director – Integrated Services and Safe Schools by phone at (604) 817-3635 or at Lisa.Dominato@bov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for writing and sharing this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "B".

Mike Bernier
Minister

pc: Lisa Dominato, A/Executive Director – Integrated Services and Safe Schools, Learning
Division, Ministry of Education