

## Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

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**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:27 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Cc:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Dhillon, Harbir PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Marijuana laced fentanyl

Response from VPD below, they are currently fielding calls.

**From:** MONTAGUE, Brian [<mailto:brian.montague@vpd.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:23 AM  
**To:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Marijuana laced fentanyl

Here is my response to the article and I highlighted a response you can feel free to use specifically related to the Province article:

This is a constant battle to try and keep this information accurate. That comment by Sandra may have been the belief at the time based on the information she was provided, but it has shown not to be the case and we continue to correct any misinformation. The VPD have made fentanyl seizures where there are other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana present. I suspect the Coroner would likely say that they have cases where individuals who have died from an overdose have fentanyl in their system along with other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana, but of course there is no way to determine how those drugs entered their system. I can't speak for other police departments and I can't say that fentanyl has not, is not or couldn't be placed in marijuana, but I can tell you that the VPD has not seized marijuana that has been tested and shown that it has been laced with fentanyl.

SERGEANT (WSE) 1723 BRIAN MONTAGUE  
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER  
COMMUNITY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION  
VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

T: 604-717-2969  
E: [brian.montague@vpd.ca](mailto:brian.montague@vpd.ca)

**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX [<mailto:Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:15 AM  
**To:** MONTAGUE, Brian  
**Cc:** Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Marijuana laced fentanyl

Hi Brian: clip below as discussed.

Vancouver police are now finding fentanyl turning up in batches of seized marijuana, Const. Sandra Glendinning said at a Monday news conference held to highlight the lethal risks of the synthetic drug. She said police will announce today that a major fentanyl ring has been busted, but didn't provide any further details.

**CAROLINE MCANDREWS**  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General  
Ph: 250 356-1196

## Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

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**From:** Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:28 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Below if the only public statements we are aware of. We dont have confirmation that the marijuana tested positive. Beyond this there is the same anecdote and street info you will be aware of.

### **Marijuana laced with Fentanyl**

#### **Masset**

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Masset RCMP has reason to believe that there is marijuana available for sale in Masset that is laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid (painkiller) that is extremely dangerous even in very small doses. Illegal fentanyl has been linked to over 500 deaths in the province of British Columbia in 2016 alone. Fentanyl is also being sold in British Columbia in pill form, known as 'Fake Oxy' or 'Oxy 80'. It is highly addictive.

At this time, Masset RCMP would like to warn the public of the dangers of exposure to fentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than heroin and can be fatal if smoked, swallowed, injected or even absorbed through the skin.

Illegal fentanyl is not safe in any dosage and a person can overdose in seconds. Symptoms of overdose include:

- shallow breathing
- slowed heart rate
- difficulty walking or standing
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- drowsiness

If you suspect that you or someone you know is experiencing a fentanyl overdose, call for medical help immediately. BC Ambulance is available 24/7 at **1-800-461-9911**. If you see a white powdery substance near someone who may have overdosed, do not handle it. Call Masset RCMP at **250-626-3991** and request assistance with its safe removal.

Masset RCMP also encourages the use of CrimeStoppers by calling their anonymous tip line at **1-800-222-8477** or by accessing their website at [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) and following the links to Northern BC. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge.

Constable Patti Evans  
Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991  
Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson

District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)  
North District  
4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7  
Office: 250-561-3166

Cell: 250-301-3521

**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:18 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

How would the police, or anyone for that matter, know that fentanyl was in cannabis absent ant confirmation through lab testing?

And had testing occurred we would have been informed of it wouldn't we?

I am looping Clayton in. Can you touch base with him Bonnie?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:55 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

I think it is fine but would emphasize that we don't know if fentanyl is in cannabis vs people taking both.  
We do know most deaths involve multiple substances.  
Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
British Columbia  
250 952 1330

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:52 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Just want to confirm this would be the messaging you would use as well? We don't want the minister going out there saying this and then having it be contradicted... I know you did look at it last night and we took out the coroner's reference based on your feedback, so I expect it will be fine from your perspective, but just want to double-check.  
Thanks Bonnie.

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:51 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Perry is away but I can cover if need be. I am also at the opioid conference however until later today.  
B

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
British Columbia  
250 952 1330

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:36 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - NW

FYI and just checking with you on this... Thanks, Sarah.

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:27 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Thanks Matt.

We are tied up at the Opioid Summit until around 11:30am EST.

Kristy/Sarah - please send up an email to MTL that clearly explains what we would like him to do, please include the three links Matt has shared below for his information, if he has all of that I will ensure he makes a few calls during some free time today.

Lastly, can someone please see if they can connect with Perry.<sup>s.22</sup> but has been doing media the last few days. I want to ensure he will have the same comments as MTL.

Any questions call me but it's hard for me to go in and out of here.

Thanks,  
Kellie

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: 250-953-3547  
E: Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 10:18 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Here are some stories that support the comments..... can Sarah or Kristy connect with NW to get a time for the minister to go on.... Should be him vs a health official. And can shop send these links to NW desk... call them and explain where the comments from PCC and others come from... warning by the police etc....

<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/07/fentanyl-vancouver/>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

#### **Key Messages**

**There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.**

**There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.**

**It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.**

**The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.**

**As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.**

**The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:**

- o **young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;**
- o **consumers are getting a product that they expect;**
- o **the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.**

**Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.**

**Matt Gordon  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 617 Government Street  
Victoria, BC  
250.896.4923**

## **Wright, Kristin J HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 1:04 PM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: HLTH Media Request: Premier's comments on marijuana laced with fentanyl.

Sorry Lori,

s.22 I think the Minister covered it along with the statement from the RCMP.

I have nothing to add.

My best,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
British Columbia  
250 952 1330

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:01 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Premier's comments on marijuana laced with fentanyl.

Hi Bonnie – would you be free to speak with Bhinder with CTV news today about the comments the Premier made re: marijuana being laced with fentanyl and how big of a concern this is?

The Minister has spoken to media already about this, and I have included a couple of transcripts below. I have also provided the key messages we are using.

Please let us know if you would be available before 3:00 to speak to this.

Thanks!

Lori

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<b>Reporter</b>	Bhinder Sajan, Reporter CTV News (BC) <a href="mailto:bhinder.sajan@bellmedia.ca">bhinder.sajan@bellmedia.ca</a> 250-383-2480 c: 250-418-5207
<b>Deadline</b>	Friday, November 18, 2016 3:00 PM
<b>Request</b>	Bhinder would like to interview with MTL on Premier's comments and ask how big of a concern this is.

## Background

## Recommendation

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### Key Messages:

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however we rely on the information we're given by first responders and law enforcement. There have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

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### Minister's response:

Gord MacDonald: BC Health Minister Terry Lake is clarifying Premier Christy Clark's comment yesterday that Vancouver police have seized marijuana laced with fentanyl. The VPD says it has not seized any marijuana laced with fentanyl.

Dr Patricia Daly, the chief medical health officer at Vancouver Coastal Health, says they've never heard of any such seizures and it's the same in the Fraser Health region.

She made the comment in Ottawa yesterday where she's attending a national summit meeting today on the opioid overdose crisis.

Health Minister Lake says they simply want to warn people out of an abundance of caution.

## Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** Tupper, Kenneth HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Stevenson, Lynn HLTH:EX; O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; South, Nancy HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: CBC Online: All B.C. high schools need naloxone kits, school trustee says

Thanks Ken. That would be great.

We did hear of several people coming to ER at a Fraser hospital for opioid overdose (naloxone was used successful) who said they had only smoked pot. That was two or three weeks ago. But I don't know if they had any way of verifying that they had only smoked pot, as they could have just said that because they didn't want to admit to using something heavier. That's the only instance I am aware of recently.

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**From:** Tupper, Kenneth HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2016 10:33 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Stevenson, Lynn HLTH:EX; O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; South, Nancy HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: CBC Online: All B.C. high schools need naloxone kits, school trustee says

I have not heard of any evidence of fentanyl being found in (let alone "sprayed in") marijuana, other than vague assertions in the media by perhaps well-intentioned but not necessarily well-informed lay people like Susan Carr.

This would be important for the Public Engagement and Surveillance Task Groups to determine the veracity of and keep potential hyperbole in check! (or correct me if I'm wrong). I've cc'd Nancy South to see if she can track down any credible intel about this from public safety reps on the Surveillance TG)

Regards  
KT

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 6, 2016 11:25 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Stevenson, Lynn HLTH:EX; O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX; Tupper, Kenneth HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: CBC Online: All B.C. high schools need naloxone kits, school trustee says

Another article on this as well...

## Put overdose kits in schools

The Province

Thursday, October 06, 2016

Page A06

By Glen Schaefer



Page 09 to/à Page 10

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Sarah Plank  
Communications Director | Ministry of Health  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 5, 2016, at 11:33 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Per our conversation today...

**From:** [tno@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca) [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 5, 2016 11:22 AM

**Subject:** CBC Online: All B.C. high schools need naloxone kits, school trustee says

CBC Online

CBC News

05-Oct-2016 11:01

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Page 12

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## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 5:03 PM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** PSSG media heads up - premier's comments on marijuana regulation and fentanyl

Hi Minister,

Just FYI on the request below, and PSSG messaging which we have contributed to.

### Key Messages

- **There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.**
- **There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.**
- **It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.**
- **The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.**
- **As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.**
- **The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:**
  - young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
  - consumers are getting a product that they expect;
  - the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.
- **Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.**

Jill Drews – News 1130 – 604 877-4400 - looking to verify the premier's comment that fentanyl has been found in marijuana.

Karim: Clark says they spent over an hour with the federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale. She says since fentanyl is appearing in recreational drugs like **marijuana**, regulating pot should be a priority.

Premier Clark: Regulating marijuana is more important now when we're finding fentanyl in marijuana.

Masset RCMP issued the statement below.

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

**Masset**

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Masset RCMP has reason to believe that there is marijuana available for sale in

Masset that is laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid (painkiller) that is extremely dangerous even in very small doses. Illegal fentanyl has been linked to over 500 deaths in the province of British Columbia in 2016 alone. Fentanyl is also being sold in British Columbia in pill form, known as 'Fake Oxy' or 'Oxy 80'. It is highly addictive.

At this time, Masset RCMP would like to warn the public of the dangers of exposure to fentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than heroin and can be fatal if smoked, swallowed, injected or even absorbed through the skin.

Illegal fentanyl is not safe in any dosage and a person can overdose in seconds. Symptoms of overdose include:

- shallow breathing
- slowed heart rate
- difficulty walking or standing
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- drowsiness

If you suspect that you or someone you know is experiencing a fentanyl overdose, call for medical help immediately. BC Ambulance is available 24/7 at 1-800-461-9911. If you see a white powdery substance near someone who may have overdosed, do not handle it. Call Masset RCMP at 250-626-3991 and request assistance with its safe removal.

Masset RCMP also encourages the use of CrimeStoppers by calling their anonymous tip line at 1-800-222-8477 or by accessing their website at [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) and following the links to Northern BC. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge.

Constable Patti Evans  
Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991  
Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson

District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)  
North District  
4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7  
Office: 250-561-3166  
Cell: 250-301-3521

Sarah Plank

Communications Director | Ministry of Health

Government Communications & Public Engagement

Mobile: 250.208.9621 | Email: sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:17 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: CKNW Online: Health officials dispute Pemier's claim fentanyl appearing in marijuana

s.13

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:04 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Wolford, Jessica GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: CKNW Online: Health officials dispute Pemier's claim fentanyl appearing in marijuana

I don't think so on our end from the Health perspective, but copying Caroline to see if they have anything.

Our messaging is relatively circumspect on this. Dr Perry Kendall says there have been the occasional reports of fentanyl-laced marijuana but none have been confirmed with testing. People getting treatment for an overdose that is obviously opioid-related - because they respond to naloxone - may just say they took pot because they may not want to admit to using harder drugs. So it's pretty hard to confirm.

Coroners toxicology data would not be able to differentiate whether someone took pot laced with fentanyl or whether they took the two substances separately. So they wouldn't have the info either.

Police seizures could be a more definitive source of info, but I don't know if they would routinely test marijuana for fentanyl. Not even sure how many seizures of marijuana they are making anymore given impending legalization - I think they are mostly directing resources into other areas of priority. But Caroline would better be able to speak to that.

Here is our joint messaging on it.

### **Key Messages**

- **There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.**
- **There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation,**

**we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.**

- It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.**
- The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.**
- As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.**
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- Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.**

Sarah Plank  
Communications Director | Ministry of Health  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 6:41 AM, Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX <[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Flipping you over to Sarah as she would be lead on this. I can also take a look but she would probably know more quickly.

Kristy Anderson  
778.678.5200

On Nov 18, 2016, at 6:36 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX <[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

See below..... an NW story disputing whether pot laced with fentanyl has been seized...and a story from December which confirms it has .... So question is do we have any other information? IE: briefing



notes or anything else from program to support the provinces story from and comments that it is an issue?

The Province: Startling statistics on fentanyl-related overdoses and deaths have prompted police and health authorities to issue a public warning -- particularly to recreational pot users.

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

**From:** [tno@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca) [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 5:52 AM

**Subject:** CKNW Online: Health officials dispute Pemier's claim fentanyl appearing in marijuana

CKNW Online

18-Nov-2016 05:55

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## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:29 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Kellie's working on getting MTL and potentially Marilyn oberg on.

Kristy or Sarah - call me if you need any context on PCC's remarks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 7:18 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX <Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Here are some stories that support the comments..... can Sarah or Kristy connect with NW to get a time for the minister to go on.... Should be him vs a health official. And can shop send these links to NW desk... call them and explain where the comments from PCC and others come from... warning by the police etc...

<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/07/fentanyl-vancouver/>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>

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Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 617 Government Street  
Victoria, BC  
250.896.4923

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:40 AM  
**To:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

This is the report that News 1130 said VPD backed down on.

K

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:38 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Will connect with them now.

Sent from my iPhone

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Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: [250-953-2547](tel:250-953-2547)  
E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)  
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Kellie

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**Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations**

**4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 617 Government Street**

**Victoria, BC**

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**To:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Just flagging for Matt & Katy so you have it as well that Kristy provided this below to CKNW.

Masset RCMP issued the statement below.

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

**Masset**

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Masset RCMP has reason to believe that there is marijuana available for sale in

Masset that is laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid (painkiller) that is extremely dangerous even in very small doses. Illegal fentanyl has been linked to over 500 deaths in the province of British Columbia in 2016 alone. Fentanyl is also being sold in British Columbia in pill form, known as 'Fake Oxy' or 'Oxy 80'. It is highly addictive.

At this time, Masset RCMP would like to warn the public of the dangers of exposure to fentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than heroin and can be fatal if smoked, swallowed, injected or even absorbed through the skin.

Illegal fentanyl is not safe in any dosage and a person can overdose in seconds. Symptoms of overdose include:

- shallow breathing
- slowed heart rate
- difficulty walking or standing
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- drowsiness

If you suspect that you or someone you know is experiencing a fentanyl overdose, call for medical help immediately. BC Ambulance is available 24/7 at 1-800-461-9911. If you see a white powdery substance near someone who may have overdosed, do not handle it. Call Masset RCMP at 250-626-3991 and request assistance with its safe removal.

Masset RCMP also encourages the use of CrimeStoppers by calling their anonymous tip line at 1-800-222-8477 or by accessing their website at [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) and following the links to Northern BC. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge.



Constable Patti Evans  
Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991  
Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson

District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)  
North District  
4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7  
Office: 250-561-3166  
Cell: 250-301-3521

**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:47 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Yes.

Kristy Anderson  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)  
[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
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**Importance:** High

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**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
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Somebody needs to get the links below to the desk - gord macdonald, the news director, or to liza yuzda, the reporter over there for a follow-up ASAP. Send these and call and explain the context around where her comments come from. I've done this with Vaughn tks

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:56 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - NW

FYI

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:56 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

I think it is fine but would emphasize that we don't know if fentanyl is in cannabis vs people taking both. We do know most deaths involve multiple substances.

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
British Columbia  
250 952 1330

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:52 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Just want to confirm this would be the messaging you would use as well? We don't want the minister going out there saying this and then having it be contradicted... I know you did look at it last night and we took out the coroner's reference based on your feedback, so I expect it will be fine from your perspective, but just want to double-check. Thanks Bonnie.

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:51 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Perry is away but I can cover if need be. I am also at the opioid conference however until later today.  
B

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO

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250 952 1330

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:36 AM  
**To:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT - NW

FYI and just checking with you on this... Thanks, Sarah.

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**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

By yes does that mean Sandra has agreed to go out? VPD just tweeted they've never seized marijuana laced with fentanyl.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 7:47 AM, Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX <[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

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Kristy Anderson  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
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E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 10:18 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
<Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Here are some stories that support the comments.....  
can Sarah or Kristy connect with NW to get a time for  
the minister to go on.... Should be him vs a health  
official. And can shop send these links to NW desk... call  
them and explain where the comments from PCC and  
others come from... warning by the police etc....  
<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/07/fentanyl-vancouver/>  
<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>  
<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>  
<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

### **Key Messages**

**There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.**

**There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.**

**It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.**

**The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.**

**As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.**

**The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:**

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;**
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;**
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.**

**Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.**

**Matt Gordon**

Assistant Deputy Minister

Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 617 Government Street

Victoria, BC

250.896.4923

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:22 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Media Fentanyl in Marijuana  
**Importance:** High

HI Minister

CKNW and CKFR (AM 1150 Kelowna) have been running stories disputing that marijuana has been laced with fentanyl. They have Patty Daly on this and we are reaching out to her as well as Fraser Health as they are quoted as well. See stories below. Following these stories are our KMs on this as well as a police report and previous media stories that have indicated that fentanyl may have been found in marijuana. Kellie will talk to you about calling CKNW and CKFR.

Their numbers are (

CKNW – 604.331.2711 (ext 1 for news room)

CKFR - (250) 860-8600

CKFR (Kelowna)

18-Nov-2016 07:01

Copyright

18-Nov-2016 06:31

Copyright

Below are the media/police reports on this as well as some points from us - It really a message that we need to be careful.. aware of the risks... aware of the warnings.

From Ministry of Health

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Police/Media reports

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

## Masset

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Masset RCMP has reason to believe that there is marijuana available for sale in

Masset that is laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid (painkiller) that is extremely dangerous even in very small doses. Illegal fentanyl has been linked to over 500 deaths in the province of British Columbia in 2016 alone. Fentanyl is also being sold in British Columbia in pill form, known as 'Fake Oxy' or 'Oxy 80'. It is highly addictive.

At this time, Masset RCMP would like to warn the public of the dangers of exposure to fentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than heroin and can be fatal if smoked, swallowed, injected or even absorbed through the skin.

Illegal fentanyl is not safe in any dosage and a person can overdose in seconds. Symptoms of overdose include:

- shallow breathing
- slowed heart rate
- difficulty walking or standing
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- drowsiness

If you suspect that you or someone you know is experiencing a fentanyl overdose, call for medical help immediately. BC Ambulance is available 24/7 at 1-800-461-9911. If you see a white powdery substance near someone who may have overdosed, do not handle it. Call Masset RCMP at 250-626-3991

and request assistance with its safe removal.

Masset RCMP also encourages the use of CrimeStoppers by calling their anonymous tip line at 1-800-222-8477 or by accessing their website at [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) and following the links to Northern BC. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge.

Constable Patti Evans

Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991

Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson

District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)

North District

4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7

Office: 250-561-3166

Cell: 250-301-3521

<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/07/fentanyl-vancouver/>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

**Kristy Anderson**

Director, Media Relations

Ministry of Health

250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)

[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:29 AM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

We have no calls, VPD is doing their own. We already provided our KM's to News1130 last night.

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:28 AM  
**To:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Apologies if I missed this but can we get a rollout of who is making calls, when, and to what outlets?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:16 AM, McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <[Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi all: just talked to Van PD and Brian is currently fielding calls on this also. He is sending me his KM's in a second. He's just working on a response.

**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:01 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Done – talked to Ria at CKNW and emailed her and Gord with the info – links and messaging.

Kristy Anderson  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)  
[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:57 AM  
**To:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Warnings and anecdotal is fine... we need to remind outlets this was the nature of her comments.... ie: We need to be careful.. aware of the risks... aware of the warnings etc...



**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:53 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Just trying to get a hold of someone at VPD. They apparently stepped back from that comment, so trying to find out what they are saying now.

Will keep you posted.

s.13

it has been warnings

and anecdotal up to now as per our KM's.

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:46 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW  
**Importance:** High

Can somebody confirm this is happening? Needs to happen now.

**From:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:42 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW  
**Importance:** High

Somebody needs to get the links below to the desk - gord macdonald, the news director, or to liza yuzda, the reporter over there for a follow-up ASAP. Send these and call and explain the context around where her comments come from. I've done this with Vaughn tks

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - NW

Latest NW story mentions NW has reached out to VPD. Caroline – are you able to connect with their comms person on your end?

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:35 AM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Adding - can we connect with this person from VPD and see if she can get out. This so from the second story pasted below.

**Vancouver police are now finding fentanyl turning up in batches of seized marijuana, Const. Sandra Glendinning said at a Monday news conference held to highlight the lethal risks of the synthetic drug.**

She said police will announce today that a major fentanyl ring has been busted, but didn't provide any further details.

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)  
E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 10:30 AM, Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX <[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Very good to hear!

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 7:27 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I will reach out to Perry. I have canvassed him on this issue, and he approved the messaging below yesterday.

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:27 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Thanks Matt.

We are tied up at the Opioid Summit until around 11:30am EST.

Kristy/Sarah - please send up an email to MTL that clearly explains what we would like him to do, please include the three links Matt has shared below for his information, if he has all of that I will ensure he makes a few calls during some free time today.

Lastly, can someone please see if they can connect with Perry.<sup>s.22</sup>  
<sup>s.22</sup> but has been doing media the last few days. I want to ensure he will have the same comments as MTL.

Any questions call me but it's hard for me to go in and out of here.

Thanks,  
Kellie

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: 250-953-3547  
E: [Keljie.Ohrlen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Keljie.Ohrlen@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 10:18 AM, Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
<[Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Gordon@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Here are some stories that support the comments.....  
can Sarah or Kristy connect with NW to get a time for  
the minister to go on.... Should be him vs a health  
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<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

#### Key Messages

**There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.**

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- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.**

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**Matt Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate Priorities & Communications Operations  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 617 Government Street  
Victoria, BC  
250.896.4923

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

MTL or MMM needs to take this on.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:39 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

FYI that this has come in.

**From:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:37 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor  
Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in BC, and if so if there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, similar to the warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be running on evening news tonight.

**Background**

**Recommendation**

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:47 AM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Yup – good point.

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:46 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
Lake needs to emphasize we rely on the information we're given by first responders and law enforcement. Clearly, from the examples we've provided to media, we have been told there are cases of pot contaminated with fentanyl.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:44 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

We can check, but it's not really their area to speak to. I expect they will probably be reluctant...

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:42 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
Is there anyone else at BCAS?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:41 AM, O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX <[Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

She is not responding to my texts - she may be flying back to BC

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 11:41 AM, Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
<[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Also where are we at with Marilyn?

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:39 AM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
<[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

FYI that this has come in.

**From:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:37 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX;  
Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; May, Stephen  
GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine  
GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Belanger,  
Matthew GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Lawrie,  
Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana -  
Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor  
Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl for  
there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their so  
warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will  
news tonight.

**Background**

**Recommendation**

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:58 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Sarah will be sending this up in the original email but here you are as well.

Kristy Anderson  
778.678.5200

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX" <Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 8:50:12 AM PST  
**To:** "Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX" <Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX" <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

We need to flag for the minister that this is VPD's messaging now... Probably in follow up to the earlier email from Kristy for him to call NW. Just want to make sure that is going to get done before he calls. Thanks.

This is a constant battle to try and keep this information accurate. That comment by Sandra may have been the belief at the time based on the information she was provided, but it has shown not to be the case and we continue to correct any misinformation. The VPD have made fentanyl seizures where there are other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana present. I suspect the Coroner would likely say that they have cases where individuals who have died from an overdose have fentanyl in their system along with other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana, but of course there is no way to determine how those drugs entered their system. I can't speak for other police departments and I can't say that fentanyl has not, is not or couldn't be placed in marijuana, but I can tell you that the VPD has not seized marijuana that has been tested and shown that it has been laced with fentanyl.

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Hi Minister – Ted Field with Global TV will be running a story about marijuana being laced with fentanyl being found in B.C. He is asking if we will be warning recreational pot users. OK to send the below response please?

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor



Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in BC, and if so if there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, similar to the warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be running on evening news tonight.

**Background**

**Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful -- any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Thank you,  
Lori

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:58 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media Fentanyl in Marijuana

Hi Minister,

Kristy and I have been working on this one together this morning. This just came in from PSSG, so wanted to make sure you are aware before you call any of the outlets... This is now the Vancouver Police Department messaging this morning in response to the media, questioning a previous comment from a few months back from one of their spokespeople that indicated they had a seizure of marijuana laced with fentanyl (article is in one of the links below that Kristy sent):

*"This is a constant battle to try and keep this information accurate. That comment by Sandra may have been the belief at the time based on the information she was provided, but it has shown not to be the case and we continue to correct any misinformation. The VPD have made fentanyl seizures where there are other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana present. I suspect the Coroner would likely say that they have cases where individuals who have died from an overdose have fentanyl in their system along with other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana, but of course there is no way to determine how those drugs entered their system. I can't speak for other police departments and I can't say that fentanyl has not, is not or couldn't be placed in marijuana, but I can tell you that the VPD has not seized marijuana that has been tested and shown that it has been laced with fentanyl."*

Dr. Daly is standing by her comments in the media, that they are unaware of any evidence of fentanyl-laced marijuana. Clayton Pecknold has advised the only case they're aware of is the Masset notice. He notes: "We don't have confirmation that the marijuana tested positive. Beyond this there is the same anecdote and street info you will be aware of."

Suggested added messaging:

We rely on the information we're given by first responders and law enforcement. Clearly, from the examples we've provided to media (*per links below*), we have been told there are cases of pot contaminated with fentanyl.

Thanks,  
Sarah.

**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:22 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Media Fentanyl in Marijuana  
**Importance:** High

HI Minister

CKNW and CKFR (AM 1150 Kelowna) have been running stories disputing that marijuana has been laced with fentanyl. They have Patty Daly on this and we are reaching out to her as well as Fraser Health as they are quoted as well. See stories below. Following these stories are our KMs on this as well as a police report and previous media stories that have indicated that fentanyl may have been found in marijuana. Kellie will talk to you about calling CKNW and CKFR.

Their numbers are (

CKNW – 604.331.2711 (ext 1 for news room)

CKFR - (250) 860-8600

CKFR (Kelowna)

18-Nov-2016 07:01

Copyright

CKNW (Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 06:31

Copyright

Below are the media/police reports on this as well as some points from us - It really a message that we need to be careful.. aware of the risks... aware of the warnings.

From Ministry of Health

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

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Police/Media reports

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

**Masset**

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, Masset RCMP has reason to believe that there is marijuana available for sale in

Masset that is laced with fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid (painkiller) that is extremely dangerous even in very small doses. Illegal fentanyl has been linked to over 500 deaths in the province of British Columbia in 2016 alone. Fentanyl is also being sold in British Columbia in pill form, known as 'Fake Oxy' or 'Oxy 80'. It is highly addictive.

At this time, Masset RCMP would like to warn the public of the dangers of exposure to fentanyl, which is 100 times more powerful than heroin and can be fatal if smoked, swallowed, injected or even absorbed through the skin.

Illegal fentanyl is not safe in any dosage and a person can overdose in seconds. Symptoms of overdose include:

- shallow breathing
- slowed heart rate
- difficulty walking or standing
- trouble breathing
- nausea
- drowsiness

If you suspect that you or someone you know is experiencing a fentanyl overdose, call for medical help immediately. BC Ambulance is available 24/7 at 1-800-461-9911. If you see a white powdery substance near someone who may have overdosed, do not handle it. Call Masset RCMP at 250-626-3991

and request assistance with its safe removal.

Masset RCMP also encourages the use of CrimeStoppers by calling their anonymous tip line at 1-800-222-8477 or by accessing their website at [www.bccrimestoppers.com](http://www.bccrimestoppers.com) and following the links to Northern BC. You could receive a cash reward of up to \$2000 upon an arrest and charge.

Constable Patti Evans  
Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991  
Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson

District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)  
North District  
4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7  
Office: 250-561-3166  
Cell: 250-301-3521

<http://www.vancitybuzz.com/2015/07/fentanyl-vancouver/>

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2152083/more-warnings-about-fentanyl-as-stories-of-deadly-overdoses-emerge/>

<http://www.theprovince.com/news/11599857/story.html>

Kristy Anderson  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)  
[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

**Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 9:13 AM  
**To:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Fentanyl in Marijuana

s.13

Sent on the TELUS Mobility network with BlackBerry

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**From:** "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX"  
**Date:** Fri, 18 Nov 2016 16:21:43 +0000  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
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CKFR - (250) 860-8600

CKFR (Kelowna)

18-Nov-2016 07:01

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**Masset**

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

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Constable Patti Evans  
Acting Operations Officer Masset Detachment 250-626-3991  
Fax 250-626-5138

Released by

Cpl. Madonna Saunderson



District Advisory NCO (Media Relations)  
North District  
4020 5th Avenue, Prince George B.C. V2M 7E7  
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<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/recreational-drug-users-warned-about-fentanyl-risks-1.1779712>

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**Kristy Anderson**

Director, Media Relations

Ministry of Health

250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)

[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 9:14 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

This is fine.

Sent on the TELUS Mobility network with BlackBerry

---

**From:** "Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX"  
**Date:** Fri, 18 Nov 2016 16:48:17 +0000  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Hi Minister – Ted Field with Global TV will be running a story about marijuana being laced with fentanyl being found in B.C. He is asking if we will be warning recreational pot users. OK to send the below response please?

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor  
Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in BC, and if so if there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, similar to the warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be running on evening news tonight.

### Background

### Recommendation

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

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Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Thank you,

Lori

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:26 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana

Will do Kellie.  
Thanks!  
Lori

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:23 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana  
Lori,

MTL has proactively called CKNW on this topic. During that call MTL was very clear that we rely on information from first responders and front line police, who have said at some point this is a possibility, which is what has caused the comments around the anecdotal evidence to date.

That message is not included in this response, please add that in and re-send.

Sarah has the line I'm referring to - moving forward and for any future media on this it needs to be added.

Kellie

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:18 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister – another media request re: the Premier's mention marijuana being laced with fentanyl. Are you Ok with me sending the same response you approved for Global as reflected below?

Thank you,

Lori

**From:** May, Stephen GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:12 AM

**To:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX

**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana  
For the roll-up

**Reporter** Mike Laanela, Editor  
CBC Online  
[mike.laanela@cbc.ca](mailto:mike.laanela@cbc.ca)  
604-721-1665

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request** Just wondering if the premier misspoke yesterday when she said fentanyl has been detected in pot in B.C.?

Local officials are denying this is true.

<http://www.cknw.com/2016/11/17/health-officials-dispute-premiers-claim-fentanyl-appearing-in-marijuana/>

## **Background**

### **Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

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## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:19 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana

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**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana

For the roll-up

**Reporter** Mike Laanela, Editor  
CBC Online  
[mike.laanela@cbc.ca](mailto:mike.laanela@cbc.ca)  
604-721-1665

**Deadline** ASAP

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**Background**

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:40 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Hi Minister – Ted had come back is asking if you could provide an on-camera interview re: the national strategy. I suspect he may also bring up the possibility of marijuana being laced with fentanyl.

He is asking if you are free at 3:00 p.m. Victoria time (6:00 p.m. Ottawa). If yes, he could arrange the on-camera at the Global studio across from the Parliament buildings.

If you are available, I will send all the details.

Thank you,

Lori

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
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Global TV | BC  
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604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

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## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:46 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Will do Kellie. I will wait to hear back from the minister. In the meantime is there a window that might work so I can check in with Global to see if it works for them?

Thank you both.

Lori

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:44 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
He's not free at 6pm EST.

Please work with Marissa and I on the availability of MTL for this if he agrees he is willing to do it.

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:39 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister – Ted had come back is asking if you could provide an on-camera interview re: the national strategy. I suspect he may also bring up the possibility of marijuana being laced with fentanyl.

He is asking if you are free at 3:00 p.m. Victoria time (6:00 p.m. Ottawa). If yes, he could arrange the on-camera at the Global studio across from the Parliament buildings.

If you are available, I will send all the details.

Thank you,

Lori

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
Hi Minister – Ted Field with Global TV will be running a story about marijuana being laced with fentanyl being found in B.C. He is asking if we will be warning recreational pot users. OK to send the below response please?

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor  
Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in BC, and if so if there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, similar to the warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be running on evening news tonight.

### **Background**

### **Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Thank you,

Lori

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:01 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana

I will send this media response to the reporter, with the line added per your direction.

Thanks!

Lori

**From:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:58 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana  
Ok

Terry Lake DVM  
Minister of Health

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:18 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister – another media request re: the Premier's mention marijuana being laced with fentanyl. Are you Ok with me sending the same response you approved for Global as reflected below?

Thank you,

Lori

**From:** May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana  
For the roll-up

**Reporter** Mike Laanela, Editor  
CBC Online  
[mike.laanela@cbc.ca](mailto:mike.laanela@cbc.ca)  
604-721-1665

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request** Just wondering if the premier misspoke yesterday when she said fentanyl has been detected in pot in B.C.?

Local officials are denying this is true.

<http://www.cknw.com/2016/11/17/health-officials-dispute-premiers-claim-fentanyl/>

## **Background**

## **Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

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- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:53 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Hi Kellie – I understand you have talked to the producer and you have this setup. Can you please confirm?  
Thank you,  
Lori

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:59 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
He can do 3pm here. Where should we meet them?

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:50 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Kellie – they just send an follow up email to their original request indicating that they have a camera at the Ottawa event and suggest getting the Minister after he finishes his portion around 2:30 p.m. Do you think this time would work?

Will not communicate with Global until I hear back from Minister.

Lori

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:48 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

It wouldn't be until after 7pm. As something new has been added to the end of the day.

Which is why we'll need to wait to see if he's willing to do it. I would wait before connecting with Global in case he declines.

Are they not at the summit at all?

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:45 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Will do Kellie. I will wait to hear back from the minister. In the meantime is there a window that might work so I can check in with Global to see if it works for them?  
Thank you both.  
Lori

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:44 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

He's not free at 6pm EST.

Please work with Marissa and I on the availability of MTL for this if he agrees he is willing to do it.

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: 250-953-3547  
E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)  
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:39 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
<[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister – Ted had come back is asking if you could provide an on-camera interview re: the national strategy. I suspect he may also bring up the possibility of marijuana being laced with fentanyl. He is asking if you are free at 3:00 p.m. Victoria time (6:00 p.m. Ottawa). If yes, he could arrange the on-camera at the Global studio across from the Parliament buildings. If you are available, I will send all the details.  
Thank you,  
Lori

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136  
Hi Minister – Ted Field with Global TV will be running a story about marijuana being laced with fentanyl being found in B.C. He is asking if we will be warning recreational pot users. OK to send the below response please?

**Reporter:** Ted Field, Assignment Editor

Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, sit warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be run news tonight.

**Background**

**Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl. As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Thank you,  
Lori



## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:58 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

No worries – thanks!

While I have you, I understand that you may be reaching out to news 1130. Just bring back the below that I emailed earlier this morning. Can you let me know if the Minister can do either of them?

Thanks!

Lori

Hi Minister – we have two outlets hoping to speak with you about the opioid summit today.

1. Dave White – News 1130 – he is hoping to get your reaction to Jane Philpott stopping short of declaring a national health emergency – and if you feel this issue is being taken seriously enough.
2. Kris Sims – Newstalk 580 – would like to talk with you about the opioid summit between 2:30p and 6:00p EST. Please let me know if you are free, the time that best works for you, and I will work to arrange.

**Reporter** Dave White, Editor  
News 1130  
[dave.white@news1130.rogers.com](mailto:dave.white@news1130.rogers.com)

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request** Will MTL have an availability in Ottawa today?

We're hoping to get some sort of reaction to Jane Philpott is stopping short of declaring a national health emergency... does MTL feel this issue is being taken seriously enough?

### Background

### Recommendation

**Reporter** Sebastien Tremblay, Producer (Host Kris Sims)  
Newstalk 580 CFRA  
[seb@cfra.com](mailto:seb@cfra.com)  
613-292-0579

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 1:00 PM

**Request** I'm a producer at the radio station Newstalk 580 CFRA in Ottawa and I'm hoping that MTL would be willing to do an interview about the opioid summit on Ottawa Now this afternoon. We would like to discuss the opioid summit he is attending here in Ottawa.

Is there any chance that he would be available for a 1 on 1, sometime between 2:30p and 6:00p EST, to speak with our host Kris Sims over the phone today?

### Background

### Recommendation

**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX

**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:55 AM

**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX

**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Yes! Sorry I got side tracked.

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

T: 250-953-3547

E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 2:53 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Kellie – I understand you have talked to the producer and you have this setup. Can you please confirm?

Thank you,

Lori

Lori

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:05 PM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: RCMP media lines around marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

FYI...

**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:08 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McLintock, Barbara J PSSG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RCMP media lines around marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

Hi all: Media lines below from RCMP:

- The RCMP in British Columbia have heard through community and individual complainants about concerns around fentanyl contaminated marijuana and issued localized warnings about the possibility. We have even had individuals present with opioid overdose symptoms that have claimed they have only consumed marijuana. However, we have never seized or confirmed via chemical analysis any marijuana laced with or contaminated with fentanyl.
- We remain concerned over the possibility of cross contamination given the heightened presence of fentanyl in the Canadian illicit drug market. And we ask everyone to remain vigilant, know the symptoms and call 9-1-1 for medical assistance should you suspect someone you know is experiencing an overdose.

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:42 PM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: KM marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

Hi Minister – just FYI below are the policing KMs on marijuana/fentanyl  
The KMs include MMM's as well as VPD's and RCMPs re: Massett.

Cheers,

**Kristy Anderson**  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)  
[kristy.anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kristy.anderson@gov.bc.ca)

Hello all: Messaging below, includes KM's from VPD and RCMP re: Massett.

### Report from VPD December 2015:

Vancouver police are now finding fentanyl turning up in batches of seized marijuana, Const. Sandra Glendinning said at a Monday news conference held to highlight the lethal risks of the synthetic drug. She said police will announce today that a major fentanyl ring has been busted, but didn't provide any further details.

### Key Messages:

- The Premier's comments were based on earlier information in the media that indicated there had in fact been a seizure of marijuana in which fentanyl was detected.
- However the response from VPD indicates this was not the case. (*note VPD response in section below*)
- There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.
- The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.
- There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.
- It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.
- As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.
- The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:
  - young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
  - consumers are getting a product that they expect;
  - the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

- Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

**Response from VPD today:**

- This is a constant battle to try and keep this information accurate.
- That comment by Sandra may have been the belief at the time based on the information she was provided, but it has shown not to be the case and we continue to correct any misinformation.
- The VPD have made fentanyl seizures where there are other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana present.
- I suspect the Coroner would likely say that they have cases where individuals who have died from an overdose have fentanyl in their system along with other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana, but of course there is no way to determine how those drugs entered their system.
- I can't speak for other police departments and I can't say that fentanyl has not, is not or couldn't be placed in marijuana, but I can tell you that the VPD has not seized marijuana that has been tested and shown that it has been laced with fentanyl.

**Media lines below from RCMP in response to Masset release:**

- The RCMP in British Columbia have heard through community and individual complainants about concerns around fentanyl contaminated marijuana and issued localized warnings about the possibility.
- We have even had individuals present with opioid overdose symptoms that have claimed they have only consumed marijuana.
- However, we have never seized or confirmed via chemical analysis any marijuana laced with or contaminated with fentanyl.
- We remain concerned over the possibility of cross contamination given the heightened presence of fentanyl in the Canadian illicit drug market.
- And we ask everyone to remain vigilant, know the symptoms and call 9-1-1 for medical assistance should you suspect someone you know is experiencing an overdose.

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:57 PM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: RCMP media lines around marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

These are great

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:05 PM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: RCMP media lines around marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

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**From:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:08 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** McIntock, Barbara J PSSG:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** RCMP media lines around marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

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**Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 6:23 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Stmt going out now

I'd like to put a stop to the distraction from the deadly serious issue of our overdose crisis that has been taking place today, with regard to the Premiers comments that we had a confirmed case of marijuana laced with fentanyl. As we've all heard from the Vancouver Police Department this was reported in error, and we've also heard from the RCMP that the reports out of Masset earlier this week are also not confirmed.

With that now clear, let's move forward in our fight against this deadly drug. We continue to warn the public that any and all drugs can be tainted with fentanyl, including marijuana. We implore everyone to take this caution seriously as we are seeing an average of 2 people dying a day in this crisis in our province. Let's turn our focus back to saving lives.

Sent from my iPhone

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

---

**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 6:31 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Rush statements need approval

Immediately...

Sarah Plank  
Communications Director | Ministry of Health  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 6:30 PM, O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX <[Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

I received a copy - sent to MTL. s.13

s.13

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)  
E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 9:28 PM, Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Presume you're in the loop? Any concerns?  
Sarah Plank  
Communications Director | Ministry of Health  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
Mobile: [250.208.9621](tel:250.208.9621) | Email: [sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:sarah.plank@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX" <[Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 6:17:55 PM PST  
**To:** "Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX" <[Clayton.Pecknold@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Clayton.Pecknold@gov.bc.ca)>, "Enger, Tonia PSSG:EX" <[Tonia.Enger@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tonia.Enger@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX" <[Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca)>, "Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX" <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Rush statements need approval



They want it out before 630. Teeing up with editors now.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 6:09 PM, McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <[Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Direction from PO to put this out from MMM

**Statement:**

I'd like to put a stop to the distraction from the deadly serious issue of our overdose crisis that has been taking place today, with regard to the Premier's comments that we had a confirmed case of marijuana laced with fentanyl.

As we've all heard from the Vancouver Police Department this was reported in error, and we've also heard from the RCMP that the reports out of Masset earlier this week are also not confirmed.

With that now clear, let's move forward in our fight against this deadly drug. We continue to warn the public that any and all drugs can be tainted with fentanyl, including marijuana. We implore everyone to take this caution seriously as we are seeing an average of 2 people dying a day in this crisis in our province. Let's turn our focus back to saving lives.

Caroline McAndrews

**Communications Director**

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Ph: 250 356-1196

**O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX**

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**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2016 3:40 PM  
**To:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Marijuana

From Perry...

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Honourable Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
**T: 250-953-3547**  
E: [Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2016 3:37 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** O'Briain, Warren W HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Marijuana

At this time it is all anecdotal, small numbers and no confirmation. It's difficult to see why any dealer would do this deliberately and also difficult to see how accidental contamination would happen. I suspect youth' OD'ing might find it easier to say that they Has been smoking cannabis, than confessing to heroin use.

Just an hypothesis.

Perry

Sent from my iPad

On Nov 14, 2016, at 5:50 PM, O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX <[Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Warren, Perry:

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Minister Bill Blair will be joining the meeting with PCC and MTL (and others). I am wondering if we happen to have any information on any cases of marijuana that has been tainted with fentanyl. If so, what was the outcome? Is this something we should be worried about? And currently are we seeing this happen a lot more or not so much?

Is there any way you can get me this information fairly quickly?

Thanks,  
Kellie

**Kellie O'Brien**  
Chief of Staff to the Honourable Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
**T: 250-953-3547**  
E: [Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca)

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:58 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana

Ok

Terry Lake DVM  
Minister of Health

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:18 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Minister – another media request re: the Premier's mention marijuana being laced with fentanyl. Are you Ok with me sending the same response you approved for Global as reflected below?

Thank you,  
Lori

**From:** May, Stephen GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:12 AM  
**To:** Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: HLTH Media Request: Fentanyl in Marijuana  
For the roll-up

**Reporter** Mike Laanela, Editor  
CBC Online  
[mike.laanela@cbc.ca](mailto:mike.laanela@cbc.ca)  
604-721-1665

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request** Just wondering if the premier misspoke yesterday when she said fentanyl has been detected in pot in B.C.?

Local officials are denying this is true.

<http://www.cknw.com/2016/11/17/health-officials-dispute-pemiers-claim-fentanyl-appearing-in-marijuana/>

**Background**

**Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

## **Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX**

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**From:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:44 AM  
**To:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX; Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

He's not free at 6pm EST.

Please work with Marissa and I on the availability of MTL for this if he agrees he is willing to do it.

### **Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: 250-953-3547  
E: Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 1:39 PM, Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX <Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Minister – Ted had come back is asking if you could provide an on-camera interview re: the national strategy. I suspect he may also bring up the possibility of marijuana being laced with fentanyl.

He is asking if you are free at 3:00 p.m. Victoria time (6:00 p.m. Ottawa). If yes, he could arrange the on-camera at the Global studio across from the Parliament buildings.

If you are available, I will send all the details.

Thank you,

Lori

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**From:** Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX; Dhanowa, Damon HLTH:EX; O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Robertson, Derek HLTH:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX; Lindstein, Sarah GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Shepherd, Brent GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA REQUEST: Fentanyl laced marijuana - Ted Field - Global - 604-837-3136

Hi Minister – Ted Field with Global TV will be running a story about marijuana being laced with fentanyl being found in B.C. He is asking if we will be warning recreational pot users. OK to send the below response please?

**Reporter** Ted Field, Assignment Editor  
Global TV | BC  
[ted.field@globalnews.ca](mailto:ted.field@globalnews.ca)  
604-422-6456 c: 604-837-3136

**Deadline** Friday, November 18, 2016 2:00 PM

**Request** Wants to know if there has been marijuana laced with fentanyl found in BC, and if so if there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, similar to the warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be running on evening news tonight.

## **Background**

## **Recommendation**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.

There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.

It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.

The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.

As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.

The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:

- o young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
- o consumers are getting a product that they expect;
- o the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

Thank you,  
Lori.

## Chan-Kent, Marissa HLTH:EX

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**From:** Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 12:42 PM  
**To:** Lake, Terry HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX; Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX; Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX; Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX; Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: KM marijuana contaminated with fentanyl

Hi Minister – just FYI below are the policing KMs on marijuana/fentanyl  
The KMs include MMM's as well as VPD's and RCMPs re: Massett.

Cheers,

**Kristy Anderson**  
Director, Media Relations  
Ministry of Health  
250-952-3387 (office) 778-678-5200 (mobile)  
[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)

Hello all: Messaging below, includes KM's from VPD and RCMP re: Massett.

### Report from VPD December 2015:

Vancouver police are now finding fentanyl turning up in batches of seized marijuana, Const. Sandra Glendinning said at a Monday news conference held to highlight the lethal risks of the synthetic drug. She said police will announce today that a major fentanyl ring has been busted, but didn't provide any further details.

### Key Messages:

- The Premier's comments were based on earlier information in the media that indicated there had in fact been a seizure of marijuana in which fentanyl was detected.
- However the response from VPD indicates this was not the case. (*note VPD response in section below*)
- There is no official confirmation of any cases to date, however there have been warnings by police to be cautious of contamination in any drug, including marijuana, and other anecdotal stories of fentanyl being found in marijuana.
- The bottom line is that overdoses don't discriminate and anyone using any drug needs to be careful – any drug can contain fentanyl.
- There is the occasional report of overdoses where people reported taking marijuana, but responded to naloxone. In such a situation, we would suspect an opioid was involved, but testing hasn't been conducted in any case that we are aware of at this time.
- It can be difficult to confirm whether an exposure was from marijuana, as people may be less comfortable admitting to using other types of drugs.
- As the federal government moves towards legalization of cannabis, our focus remains to be the health and safety of British Columbians.
- The elements to cannabis legalization that we are most concerned about are:
  - young people should not have access to cannabis before they are of age;
  - consumers are getting a product that they expect;
  - the criminal element is kept out and that a strategy is in place to deal with the influx of dispensaries.

- Currently in Canada, the only legal commercial source of safe, quality-controlled medical cannabis for purchase is via registered mail from one of 35 producers licensed by Health Canada.

**Response from VPD today:**

- This is a constant battle to try and keep this information accurate.
- That comment by Sandra may have been the belief at the time based on the information she was provided, but it has shown not to be the case and we continue to correct any misinformation.
- The VPD have made fentanyl seizures where there are other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana present.
- I suspect the Coroner would likely say that they have cases where individuals who have died from an overdose have fentanyl in their system along with other drugs like cocaine, heroin, meth, and marijuana, but of course there is no way to determine how those drugs entered their system.
- I can't speak for other police departments and I can't say that fentanyl has not, is not or couldn't be placed in marijuana, but I can tell you that the VPD has not seized marijuana that has been tested and shown that it has been laced with fentanyl.

**Media lines below from RCMP in response to Masset release:**

- The RCMP in British Columbia have heard through community and individual complainants about concerns around fentanyl contaminated marijuana and issued localized warnings about the possibility.
- We have even had individuals present with opioid overdose symptoms that have claimed they have only consumed marijuana.
- However, we have never seized or confirmed via chemical analysis any marijuana laced with or contaminated with fentanyl.
- We remain concerned over the possibility of cross contamination given the heightened presence of fentanyl in the Canadian illicit drug market.
- And we ask everyone to remain vigilant, know the symptoms and call 9-1-1 for medical assistance should you suspect someone you know is experiencing an overdose.