



April 21st, 2022

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett,
 Minister of Mental Health & Addictions, Health Canada
mhaminister.ministresmd@hc-sc.gc.ca
carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

Re: BC's decriminalization Application and Threshold Quantities

Dear Minister Bennett,

Members of the BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions' (BC MMHA) Decriminalization Core Planning Table (CPT) write to you today to express our concerns and frustration that BC's most marginalized drug users are getting left behind yet again—this time in Health Canada's response to BC's section 56(1) application to decriminalize drug possession. In the interests of transparency, accountability, and our ability to continue participating in this process, we ask that evidence relied upon to support a cumulative threshold quantity of 2.5 grams be provided at an emergency CPT meeting to be held within 2 weeks of receiving this letter.

This month, we were informed by the BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Sheila Malcomson, that your Ministry and Health Canada are contemplating a cumulative threshold quantity of 2.5 grams for illicit substances. Since the CPT's formation, members representing a variety of perspectives (Indigenous peoples and communities, current drug users and their families, as well as a host of health, research, legal, and policy organizations) have called for *full* decriminalization¹. This includes the essential requirement that threshold quantities, if adopted, reflect the *actual* use and purchase patterns of all people who use drugs² alongside the removal of police from instances of simple possession (including drug seizures). **In short, we only support a decriminalization model that will actually improve the lives of people who use drugs.**

CPT members were already discouraged when the BC MMHA submitted its exemption request containing a cumulative threshold quantity of 4.5 grams. Throughout our months-long participation on the CPT, nearly all members (with the exception of police representatives) expressed support for *non-cumulative* threshold quantities of 4.5 grams.

¹ https://www.pivotlegal.org/vandu_pivot_joint_statement

² https://www.pivotlegal.org/vandu_and_pivot_on_threshold_amounts



We also agreed that people who use drugs should be responsible for setting these quantities. It was Minister Malcolmson who settled, at the eleventh hour, on a *cumulative* threshold quantity of 4.5 grams—and who refused requests to extend our feedback period prior to submission.

To then learn that her federal counterpart is now considering a further reduced decriminalization model of only 2.5 cumulative grams has been not only disappointing but also a clear indication that all governments have failed to listen to our brothers and sisters on the CPT, and particularly those who live and work in rural and remote BC communities. Our organizations have minimal time and resources and we expect to be heard when our unpaid expertise is being requested. While we have consistently provided qualitative and quantitative evidence for our recommendations, we have been denied the same in turn from our governments and those making decisions about our lives.

It is our collective experiences with real world drug use, health research, and drug policy that has led us to the conclusion that if decriminalization is approved at this very low threshold, we will see an increase in harms experienced by people who use drugs as well as instances where criminalization is actually reinforced. Re-criminalization of persons who use drugs will only serve to worsen the ongoing overdose crisis. Overdose is the leading cause of death among people being released from provincial correctional institutions in BC. Persons who have been incarcerated in provincial correctional centers are 4 times more likely to die of overdose compared to non-incarcerated British Columbians.³ Research tells us that if we are to reduce overdose in BC we must reduce the number of persons who use drugs who enter custody, particularly for drug and poverty-related offenses.^{4 5}

Data submitted to the BC MMHA by SFU and UBC Researchers at the BC Centre on Substance Use in September 2021 further underscores that a cumulative threshold of 2.5 grams will be grossly inadequate at providing coverage for people who use drugs who are most at risk of drug related harms. Highly conservative estimates of drug consumption volumes of Vancouver based people who use drugs suggests that in order to provide moderate coverage, defined as covering a one day supply of drugs for individuals with the

³ Gan WQ, Kinner SA, Nicholls TL, Xavier CG, Urbanoski K, Greiner L, Buxton JA, Martin RE, McLeod KE, Samji H, Nolan S. Risk of overdose-related death for people with a history of incarceration. *Addiction*. 2021 Jun 1;116(6):1460-71.

⁴ Kinner SA, Gan W, Slaunwhite A. Fatal overdoses after release from prison in British Columbia: a retrospective data linkage study. *Canadian Medical Association Open Access Journal*. 2021 Jul 1;9(3):E907-14.

⁵ Friedman J, Hansen H. Far From a "White Problem": Responding to the Overdose Crisis as a Racial Justice Issue. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2022 Feb;112(S1):S30-2.



most severe substance use disorders, thresholds would need to be set at 4 g for opioids, 5g for cocaine, 7.5 g of crack cocaine and 6 g of amphetamine. Comprehensive coverage, defined as covering a three day supply of drugs for individuals with the most severe substance use disorders, would require thresholds be set at 13 g for opioids, 14 g for cocaine, 22.5 g of crack cocaine and 19 g of amphetamine.^{6 7}

Higher threshold levels are also supported by a preliminary analysis of VPD seizure data undertaken by Researchers with the BCCSU which was also submitted to the BC MMHA in September 2021. In order to reduce 75% of drug seizures, which should be a reasonable target given the stated long and short-term policy objectives of decriminalization, threshold levels should be at least over 7 g for opioids, 5 g for cocaine, and 4 g for amphetamines.^{8 9}

Collectively, these data underscore that a cumulative threshold of 2.5 g will exclude those at greatest risk of drug related harms and will be grossly inadequate at meeting the stated policy objectives of decriminalization.

A cumulative threshold quantity of 2.5 grams will only serve to recriminalize people who use drugs. A number this low incentivizes engagement with the illicit market: people who regularly make multi-use purchases for safety, mobility, and geographic reasons will have no choice but to make smaller, more frequent purchases from the illicit market in order to avoid criminalization. Despite a clear and deliberate absence of threshold quantities in the CDSA and Canadian case law, police will now have an arbitrary amount above which enforcement will likely increase (based on data from other countries where threshold quantities have been too low).¹⁰ The proposed threshold quantity also risks net-widening, wherein a larger number of people are brought within the criminal justice system than before. These outcomes should be avoided if we are to meaningfully protect the health and safety of people who use drugs.

⁶ City of Vancouver. Request for an exemption from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) pursuant to section 56(1) that would decriminalize personal possession of illicit substances within the City of Vancouver. Final Submission to Health Canada. May 28, 2021. Available at: <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/request-for-exemption-from-controlled-drugs-and-substances-act.pdf>

⁷ BC Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction. Decriminalization in BC: S.56(1) Exemption - Request for an exemption to Health Canada from the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) pursuant to Section 56(1) to decriminalize personal possession of illicit substances in the Province of British Columbia. October 2021.

⁸ McAdam, E. From Illicit to Equitable: An Evaluation of Decriminalization Models for British Columbia. Simon Fraser University. School of Public Policy Masters Capstone. April 2022 (forthcoming on SFU Summit <https://summit.sfu.ca/>)

⁹ McAdam, E. From Illicit to Equitable: An Evaluation of Decriminalization Models for British Columbia. Conference Abstract. BCCSU Conference 2022. Forthcoming Oral Presentation May 17, 2022.

¹⁰ E. Single, P. Christie, R. Ali. The impact of cannabis decriminalisation in Australia and the United States Journal of Public Health Policy, 21 (2) (2000), pp. 157-186, 10.2307/3343342



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For people who use drugs in rural and remote communities, low thresholds will do little to reduce criminalization of those most entrenched in their substance use. A significant proportion of rural drug users must frequently travel long distances outside their home communities to acquire substances, often purchasing for community members with reduced access to transportation - this necessity of rural life creates additional risk of involvement with the criminal justice system. Acknowledging that larger and less frequent purchasing patterns serve to reduce harm to people who use drugs, it is unsurprising that a significant proportion of rural substance users report purchasing in quantities far greater than a 2.5 gram possession limit. Unrealistically low thresholds will inevitably fail to decriminalize those most harmed by prohibition, and disproportionately impact people who use drugs in rural and remote communities where police enforcement is still quite prevalent.¹¹

In addition, the continued overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in the criminal justice system coupled with the disproportionate number of overdoses in Indigenous populations, harmful drug policy measures pose particularly adverse impacts to Indigenous peoples in BC. Further, given the widespread anti-Indigenous racism in both the criminal justice system and healthcare system^{12 13 14}, the re-criminalization of substance use that this low-threshold will be particularly detrimental, and a safety risk to Indigenous people who use substances and will continue to marginalize the Indigenous population.

Youth in British Columbia will be adversely affected by many of the same issues identified above. Young people frequently pool money together or save up money to make larger, more cost effective purchases or to purchase quantities of drugs that will last over a longer period of time. Traveling to visit dealers less frequently can be an important way that young people who use drugs keep themselves safe. Taking multiple trips to purchase smaller quantities of drugs in line with a 2.5 g threshold could expose youth, and in particular youth who are racialized, to increased surveillance, harassment, and apprehension by police and other actors who are firmly entrenched in the view that youth should not be using drugs at all. It can increase young people's risk of being robbed or assaulted during transactions with dealers and other parties, particularly if a young person is going through withdrawal and is

¹¹ Rural Empowered Drug Users Network. 2022, April. *VANDU Decriminalization Survey (Version 2)*. Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users. Retrieved from: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18NWBXmHqV1IDmOZWnSoPUzLY2ERQSa0C/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=106470508870818767640&rtpof=true&sd=true>

¹² Turpel-Lafond ME. In plain sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in BC health care, full report, November 2020. Accessed 27 December 2020. <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/613/2020/11/In-Plain-Sight-Full-Report.pdf>

¹³ Daniels C, Aluso A, Burke-Shyne N, Koram K, Rajagopalan S, Robinson I, Shelly S, Shirley-Beavan S, Tandon T. Decolonizing drug policy. *Harm Reduct J*. 2021 Nov 27;18(1):120. doi: 10.1186/s12954-021-00564-7. PMID: 34838050; PMCID: PMC8626718.

¹⁴ Government of Canada, Office of the Correctional Investigator (21 January, 2020), 'Indigenous People in Federal Custody Surpasses 30%: Correctional Investigator Issues Statement and Challenge' [news release, accessed October 2021].



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visibly vulnerable. When youth are not able to purchase larger quantities of drugs and ration their use over longer time periods, they can more frequently find themselves in desperate circumstances that generate numerous drug-, violence-, and income-generation related risks and harms.

Though we continue to believe in progress, we know that this overly conservative threshold will not meaningfully contribute to decriminalizing people who use drugs and could end up harming our communities. As experts in our fields we collectively supported a policy with **non-cumulative threshold quantities of 4.5 grams**. This was a moderate, measured request, **based on evidence**. It is because of our commitment to people who use drugs and our belief in

the value of full decriminalization, that members have continued to participate in this process so far. CPT members felt certain parts of BC's section 56(1) application would produce less harm to drug users allowing us to continue our participation in good faith. The exclusion of administrative penalties and including self referral to health pathways allowed members to accept a 4.5g cumulative as the bare minimum beginning threshold for decriminalization. A cumulative threshold of 4.5 grams is a conservative number created by politicians. As this cumulative number continues to decrease without any evidence to support the reduction CPT members have been forced to reconsider our participation in this process.

We ask that both Minister Malcomson and Minister Bennett attend an emergency CPT meeting to explain your evidence and justifications for both a 4.5g cumulative threshold quantity and, more crucially, a 2.5g cumulative threshold quantity.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)
BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU)
Moms Stop the Harm
Pivot Legal Society
SOLID Outreach Society (Victoria)
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
Rural Empowered Drug Users Network (REDUN)



Unlocking the Gates

Dr. Danya Fast, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, UBC, with the Youth Health Advisory Council (YHAC, Vancouver)

Dr. Marilou Gagnon, Dr. Karen Urbanoski, Dr. Bruce Wallace and Dr. Bernie Pauly Scientists, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research

Leslie Varley ED on behalf of Dr. Sharon McIvor, President, BC Association of Aboriginal School of Public Policy, SFU (Associate Professor, Kora DeBeck)

Dr. Kanna Hayashi, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU

Dr. Brittany Barker, BC Centre on Substance Use & Canadian Institute of Substance Use Research

Cc: Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson, BC Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

*Christine Massey, Deputy Minister's, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions,
Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions,*

Ally Butler, Executive Director, Substance Use & Strategic Initiatives

Chris Van Veen, Senior Director, Decriminalization



October 28th, 2021

Dear Honourable Minister Malcolmson,

Thank you for meeting with the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), Pivot Legal Society, and our peers from the Core Planning Table (CPT) on October 14, 2021, during which we shared our perspectives on a made-in-BC model of decriminalization.

For our organizations, the CPT meetings have provided a productive and insightful space where we have consistently learned from our peers and allies. Necessarily, the dialogue generated at these meetings translates into further conversation within our own organizations and informs how we show up at future meetings and continue to engage with the process.

We appreciate that you intend to submit the Province's application with urgency on November 1st. However, just as you and your colleagues have required various extensions throughout this process (including the intended date for draft distribution and the final, arguably most important CPT meeting of today's date), so too will our organizations—if only so that we can accommodate the aforementioned delays. It is unreasonable to expect various low-resourced, democratically-structured organizations to make a decision about the future of BC's drug users virtually overnight based on an application that we've had less than 12 hours to review. Other organizations noted our concerns on today's CPT call most members that they also needed more time to digest this document.

Our organizations have devoted decades to drug decriminalization and while we appreciate your Ministry's recent advocacy on the matter; we need to ensure your proposed application properly benefits from the wisdom and feedback of our groups. This takes time.

We ask that you kindly extend the intended submission date for BC's exemption submission.

Sincerely,

VANDU and Pivot

From: [Butler, Ally MMHA:EX](#)
To: [Sturtevant, Darryl MMHA:EX](#); [Van Veen, Chris MMHA:EX](#)
Subject: FW: Decriminalization in BC - Postponing CPT 6
Date: October 19, 2021 10:03:30 AM

FYI – Just sharing this. I know the dates and timing are all contingent on a number of things at this stage and we can't commit to a specific date when we will distribute the draft.

From: Caitlin Shane <caitlin@pivotlegal.org>
Sent: October 19, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Garth Mullins <garthrmullins@gmail.com>; Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brittany Graham <brittany@vandu.org>
Subject: Re: Decriminalization in BC - Postponing CPT 6

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As Garth's email suggests, our organizations (and I assume others on the call who are there on behalf of larger groups) need ample time to convene with our membership, boards, and community after receiving any documents AND after every CPT meeting. The meeting on the 28th is arguably one of the most important, as it gives us a chance to hear from others on the table about the draft proposal. I think it would be a mistake to push back the date of draft distribution and corresponding CPT meeting without also pushing back the date of submission. Caitlin

From: Garth Mullins <garthrmullins@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 9:12 AM
To: Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Caitlin Shane <caitlin@pivotlegal.org>, Brittany Graham <brittany@vandu.org>
Subject: Re: Decriminalization in BC - Postponing CPT 6

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So how long will we have to digest to the document and consult with our members?

On Oct 19, 2021, at 8:48 AM, Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Caitlin,

We're still hoping to submit as close to the end of the month as possible. We're aiming to share the draft framework in advance of the CPT meeting.

Best,
Ally

From: Caitlin Shane <caitlin@pivotlegal.org>
Sent: October 15, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Garth Mullins <garthrmullins@gmail.com>; Brittany Graham <brittany@vandu.org>
Subject: Re: Decriminalization in BC - Postponing CPT 6

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Hi Ally, thanks for this. Could you let us know if MMHA has a new submission date in mind? I recall October 31st being the initial date, but assume this will change given the new date of our CPT meeting? Thanks so much, Caitlin

From: Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Friday, October 15, 2021 at 5:02 PM
To: s.22, Bill Spearn <Bill.Spearn@cfseu.bc.ca>, Brittany <brittany@vandu.org>, Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Caitlin Shane <caitlin@pivotlegal.org>, Carmin Mazzotta <cmazzotta@kamloops.ca>, Cheyenne Johnson <cheyenne.johnson@bccsu.ubc.ca>, Dr. Nel Wieman <Nel.Wieman@fnha.ca>, Emslie, Margaret J MMHA:EX <Margaret.J.Emslie@gov.bc.ca>, Erica Thomson <Erica-thomson@live.ca>, Fred Cameron <fred@solidvictoria.org>, Garth Mullins <garthrmullins@gmail.com>, Geoffrey Rankin <grankin@bcaafc.com>, Lyric Parnham <lyric.coat@gmail.com>, XT:HLTH Gilbert, Mark <mark.gilbert@bccdc.ca>, Mary Clare Zak <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>, Mike Knott <board@solidvictoria.org>, Mike Serr <mike.serr@abbypd.ca>, s.22, Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>, Sgt. Shane Holmquist <shane.holmquist@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, s.22, Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>, Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX <Stephanie.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>, Terri Gillis <tgillis@mnbc.ca>, Van Veen, Chris MMHA:EX <Chris.VanVeen@gov.bc.ca>, s.22, 'Curtis@bcfnjc.com' <Curtis@bcfnjc.com>, 'fiona.wilson@vpd.ca' <fiona.wilson@vpd.ca>, 'debbie@bcfnjc.com' <debbie@bcfnjc.com>, Tupper, Kenneth HLTH:EX <Kenneth.Tupper@gov.bc.ca>, Parish, Danielle MMHA:EX <Danielle.Parish@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: s.22, s.22
Subject: Decriminalization in BC - Postponing CPT 6

NOTE: This email is from an external sender.

Hello Core Planning Table Members,

I want to start by thanking you all so much for your continued dedication to developing a provincial decriminalization framework. We are very close to having a full s.56 exemption request draft ready for your review and feedback. As you can imagine there are still a number of internal government

conversations taking place, which means we won't be able to provide you with the draft submission before our CPT meeting scheduled for next week on 1 October 21st. Therefore, we are postponing next week's meeting until **October 28th, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**.

I apologize for this change, as I know many of you have been holding this time in your calendar, but we want to ensure that the meeting is a good use of everyone's time. For those of you who are unable to make the new meeting date/time, please reach out with any questions or feedback that you may have.

While we can't give an exact date for when you will receive the submission draft, you will get it before October 28th, with time to review and provide feedback ahead of the rescheduled meeting.

Our hope for the next meeting is to:

- Review feedback on the submission draft from CPT members
- Discuss options for CPT engagement post-submission; and
- Discuss how CPT members would like to be acknowledged in the submission document itself.

Additionally, I would like to advise you that Minister Malcolmson met with peer members of the CPT yesterday to further discuss their perspectives and feedback. We hope to also share the outcomes of this meeting with you on October 28th.

If you have any questions before our next CPT meeting, please feel free to reach out to me or Chris Van Veen (chris.vanveen@gov.bc.ca). Thank you for continuing to devote your time and energy to this process.

Best,

Ally Butler and Chris Van Veen

Best,

Ally Butler (she/her/hers)

Executive Director, Substance Use & Strategic Initiatives

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

1515 Blanshard | Victoria, BC

778.366.5962 | 604.790.5874 (Cell)

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VANDU DECRIM STUDY RESULTS

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From: Caitlin Shane
To: Butler, Ally MMHA:EX; "Jason Tockman"; "sam@bcfnjc.com"; "debbie@bcfnjc.com"; "Curtis@bcfnjc.com"; Kora DeBeck; s.22 ; Bill Spearn; Brittany; Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX; Carmin Mazzotta; Chevenne Johnson; Dr. Nel Wieman; Hold - 220802 - Emslie, Margaret J MMHA:EX; Erica Thomson; Fred Cameron; Garth Mullins; Geoffrey Rankin; Lyric Parnham; XT:HLTH Gilbert, Mark; Mary Clare Zak; Mike Knott ; Mike Serr; s.22 Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN; Sgt. Shane Holmquist ; s.22 Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX; Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX; Terri Gillis; Van Veen, Chris MMHA:EX
Cc: s.22
Subject: Re: Decriminalization Workshop 2 Materials: Defining Personal Possession
Date: September 15, 2021 8:57:01 AM
Attachments: VANDU_DECRIM[23].pptx

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi all, VANDU and Pivot thought it might be helpful to share with you some resources we drafted when Vancouver was establishing its decrim model. The first is a joint statement regarding threshold quantities – and why limiting the quantity of drugs one possesses for their own use causes harm to the most structurally vulnerable PWUD.

https://www.pivotlegal.org/vandu_and_pivot_on_threshold_amounts

The attached is the rapid evaluation VANDU did of drug possession/use in the Downtown Eastside. The evaluation shows that the Vancouver Model thresholds would not protect DTES-based PWUD, as the thresholds are too low.

Thanks, talk soon

Caitlin Shane

she/her/hers

Staff Lawyer

Pivot Legal Society

Direct: 604-255-9700 ext.12

www.pivotlegal.org

121 Heatley Avenue

Vancouver, BC, V6A 3E9

Coast Salish Territory

We acknowledge the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

This message and any documents attached hereto, is intended only for the addressee and may contain privileged or confidential information. Any unauthorized disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately so that we may correct our internal records. Please then delete the original message. Thank you.

From: Butler, Ally MMHA:EX <Ally.Butler@gov.bc.ca>

Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 3:11 PM

To: 'Jason Tockman' <Jason.Tockman@fnha.ca>, 'sam@bcfnjc.com' <sam@bcfnjc.com>, 'debbie@bcfnjc.com' <debbie@bcfnjc.com>, 'Curtis@bcfnjc.com' <Curtis@bcfnjc.com>, Kora DeBeck <kora_debeck@sfu.ca>, s.22, Bill Spearn <Bill.Spearn@cfseu.bc.ca>, Brittany <brittany@vandu.org>, Brown, Matthew G PSSG:EX <Matthew.G.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Caitlin Shane <caitlin@pivotlegal.org>, Carmin Mazzotta <cmazzotta@kamloops.ca>, Cheyenne Johnson <cheyenne.johnson@bccsu.ubc.ca>, Dr. Nel Wieman <Nel.Wieman@fnha.ca>, Emslie, Margaret J MMHA:EX <Margaret.J.Emslie@gov.bc.ca>, Erica Thomson <Erica-thomson@live.ca>, Fred Cameron <fred@solidvictoria.org>, Garth Mullins <garthrmullins@gmail.com>, Geoffrey Rankin <grankin@bcaafc.com>, s.22, XT:HLTH Gilbert, Mark <mark.gilbert@bccdc.ca>, Mary Clare Zak <MaryClare.Zak@vancouver.ca>, Mike Knott <board@solidvictoria.org>, Mike Serr <mike.serr@abbypd.ca>, s.22, s.22, Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>, Sgt. Shane Holmquist <shane.holmquist@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, s.22, Sims, Brian A PSSG:EX <Brian.Sims@gov.bc.ca>, Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX <Stephanie.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>, Terri Gillis <tgillis@mnbc.ca>, Van Veen, Chris MMHA:EX <Chris.VanVeen@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: s.22 s.22

Subject: Decriminalization Workshop 2 Materials: Defining Personal Possession

NOTE: This email is from an external sender.

Hello everyone,

Our *Decriminalization Workshop on Defining Personal Possession* is scheduled for this Friday, September 17th from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. The goals for this workshop are to:

- Explore options for defining personal possession, including those used in other jurisdictions that have implemented decriminalization.
- Develop recommendations on defining personal possession for ADM consideration.

For those of you who cannot attend, you are invited to submit written feedback or schedule a meeting with us to provide your comments in advance of the meeting.

An agenda and policy issue paper on thresholds have been attached for your reference.

If you have any questions before the workshop, please feel free to reach out to me or my colleague Chris Van Veen (chris.vanveen@gov.bc.ca). Looking forward to our discussions later this week.

The Zoom details are:

s.15

Meeting ID: s.15

Passcode:s.15

One tap mobile
s.15

Best,

Ally Butler (she/her/hers)

Executive Director, Substance Use & Strategic Initiatives

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

1515 Blanshard | Victoria, BC

778.366.5962 | 604.790.5874 (Cell)

