

**Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX**

---

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 6:52 PM  
**To:** Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Chant, Jon GCPE:EX; Stagg, Linda R GCPE:EX; Carruthers, Dana GCPE:EX; Kay, Maclean PREM:EX; Dolan, Chelsea PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: FYI for PCC - DRAFT: Statement from Minister of Public Safety regarding overdoses

Yes please

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 18, 2016, at 6:52 PM, Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX <[Grant.Kerr@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Grant.Kerr@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

> Hi PO team,

> You OK with this PSSG statement supposed to go out asap?

> Thanks,

> Grant

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX [<mailto:Grant.Kerr@gov.bc.ca>]

> Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 6:35 PM

> To: Kerr, Grant GCPE:EX

> Subject: DRAFT: Statement from Minister of Public Safety regarding overdoses

>

> Please refer to the files attached to this email. The following is the

> summary of the News Release

>

>

> NR Number: Not Approved

> NR Type: Statement

> State: Planned

> Planned Release Date: November 18, 2016 at 12:00 am No Lead

> Organization

> Headline: Statement from Minister of Public Safety regarding overdoses

>

> This email was auto-generated.

>

> Not Approved

> Nov. 18, 2016

>

> Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

>

> STATEMENT

> Statement from Minister of Public Safety regarding overdoses

>

> VICTORIA - The Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Morris has issued the following statement on the overdose crisis:

>

> "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 Premier Christy Clark'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 two people dying a day in this crisis in our province. Let's turn our focus back to saving lives."

>

> Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

> <DRAFT.pdf>

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 5:12 PM  
**To:** Chin, Ben PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft

Thoughts? I'm in favour.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX" <[Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 4:37:54 PM PST  
**To:** "Smart, Stephen PREM:EX" <[Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.Smart@gov.bc.ca)>, "Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX" <[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** "Dhillon, Harbir PSSG:EX" <[Harbir.Dhillon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Harbir.Dhillon@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Draft

Here is what we would like to put out.

Thoughts?

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 my understanding that we had a confirmed case of marijuana laced with fentanyl.

As we've all heard from VPD, 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

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 5:10 PM  
**To:** Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Cc:** Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Dhillon, Harbir PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Draft

I like this. Smarty?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 18, 2016, at 4:37 PM, Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX <[Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

>

> Here is what we would like to put out.

> Thoughts?

> 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 my understanding that we had a confirmed case of marijuana laced with fentanyl.

>

> As we've all heard from VPD, 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.

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> 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

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

---

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 3:59 PM  
**To:** Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Morris - fentanyl & marijuana

**From:** [tno@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca) [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 3:52 PM  
**Subject:** CBU: Morris - fentanyl & marijuana

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 15:31

Copyright

## **Merrifield, Katy PREM: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

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.

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 11:31 AM  
**To:** Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** FW: CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

---

**From:** Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

This is a story from last year where the VPD said they found pot laced with fentanyl.

It quoted an actual VPD officer.

<http://www.theprovince.com/touch/news/users+warned+about+toxic+fentanyl/11599857/story.html>

N

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[tno@gov.bc.ca](mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 10:32:01 AM PST  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;  
**Subject:** CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

CKNW (Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 10:00

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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## **Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX**

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Chin, Ben PREM:EX; Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

Yup - we've shared this with all outlets that have run this angle.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 10:37 AM, Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX <[Neil.Sweeney@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Neil.Sweeney@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

This is a story from last year where the VPD said they found pot laced with fentanyl.

It quoted an actual VPD officer.

[http://www.theprovince.com/touch/news/users+warned+about+toxic+fentanyl/11599857/story.h  
tml](http://www.theprovince.com/touch/news/users+warned+about+toxic+fentanyl/11599857/story.html)

N

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;  
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CKNW (Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 10:00

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 10:28 AM  
**To:** Cadario, Michele PREM:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Fentanyl in Marijuana

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX" <[Kellie.OBrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.OBrien@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 9:01:20 AM PST  
**To:** "Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX" <[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Media Fentanyl in Marijuana

see below.

### Kellie O'Brien

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX" <[Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 11:58:07 AM EST  
**To:** "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX" <[Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>, "Lake, Terry HLTH:EX" <[terry.lake@gov.bc.ca](mailto:terry.lake@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <[hlth\\_ministerial@gov.bc.ca](mailto:hlth_ministerial@gov.bc.ca)>, "Belanger, Matthew GCPE:EX" <[Matthew.Belanger@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matthew.Belanger@gov.bc.ca)>, "Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX" <[Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca)>, "Maloney, Christine GCPE:EX" <[Christine.Maloney@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Christine.Maloney@gov.bc.ca)>, "May, Stephen GCPE:EX" <[Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca)>, "Peaker, Alexandra GCPE:EX" <[Alexandra.Peaker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alexandra.Peaker@gov.bc.ca)>, "Price, Gabrielle GCPE:EX" <[Gabrielle.Price@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gabrielle.Price@gov.bc.ca)>, "Thistle-Walker, Carlene GCPE:EX" <[Carlene.ThistleWalker@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Carlene.ThistleWalker@gov.bc.ca)>, "Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX" <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>  
**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

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CKNW (Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 06:31

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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**

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<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)

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

---

**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 .<sup>s.22</sup>

**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**

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

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake  
Minister of Health  
T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)  
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**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 there will be a warning to recreational pot users to know their source, sir warning to other drug users. He is also calling the RCMP. Piece will be run news tonight.

**Background**

**Recommendation**

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**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:41 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
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Also where are we at with Marilyn?

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**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**

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
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MTL or MMM needs to take this on.

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**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**

## **Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX**

---

**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 8:33 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

Thank you Kellie

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 8:29 AM, O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX <[Kellie.OBrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.OBrien@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

MTL will be calling CKNW and CKFR probably also NL between 12-1pm EST.

Thx

**Kellie O'Brien**

Chief of Staff to the Hon. Terry Lake

Minister of Health

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

E: [Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 18, 2016, at 11:28 AM, Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX <[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

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

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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.

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**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)

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**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...

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**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.

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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-

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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.**

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T: [250-953-3547](tel:250-953-3547)  
E: [Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca)

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

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**Cc:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX; Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
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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.

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

Thanks,  
Kellie

**Kellie O'Brien**  
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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 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.vancitybuz.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 you  
ng  
people  
should  
not  
have  
access  
to  
cannab  
is  
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are of  
age;
- o cons  
umers  
are  
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- o the  
crimina  
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that a  
strateg  
y is in  
place  
to deal  
with  
the  
influx  
of  
dispen  
saries.

**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

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**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  
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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  
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<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

## **Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX**

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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:

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)

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### **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

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, November 18, 2016 7:30 AM  
**To:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX; Gordon, Matt GCPE:EX; Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT - NW

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.

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**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. I believe <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](tel:250-953-3547)  
E: [Kellie.Obrien@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kellie.Obrien@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 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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**Matt Gordon**  
Assistant Deputy Minister

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

## **Merrifield, Katy PREM: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](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 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....

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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

## Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

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**From:** Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 3:52 PM  
**To:** McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Smart, Stephen PREM:EX; Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX; Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX; Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: For direction please - Media call re PCC

I think we need a reference to the anecdotal stories we've been hearing off the top. Can you connect with health?

Smarty and I are s.22

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2016, at 6:30 PM, McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <[Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Stephen/Katy: rcvd media call below see background. How would you like us to handle this one? Key Messages on cannabis here:

### Marijuana legalization KM's:

- **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.**

### **Background:**

There is no official confirmation of any cases to date – e.g. from health, coroners or police – however there have been various stories over the past year of warning of it being in marijuana too. Masset RCMP issued the statement below.

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

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



**Subject:** Re: CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

**Date:** Friday, November 18, 2016 at 10:43:33 AM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Smart, Stephen PREM:EX

**To:** Sweeney, Neil PREM:EX, Chin, Ben PREM:EX, Cadario, Michele PREM:EX, Mills, Shane PREM:EX, Merrifield, Katy PREM:EX

Thanks Sweeney. We are pushing back.

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**Stephen Smart**

Press Secretary

Office of the Premier of British Columbia

Phone: (778) 389-6202

Email: [stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Neil Sweeney <[neil.sweeney@gov.bc.ca](mailto:neil.sweeney@gov.bc.ca)>

**Date:** Friday, November 18, 2016 at 10:37 AM

**To:** Ben Chin <[ben.chin@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ben.chin@gov.bc.ca)>, Stephen Smart <[stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca](mailto:stephen.smart@gov.bc.ca)>, Michele Cadario <[Michele.Cadario@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michele.Cadario@gov.bc.ca)>, Shane Mills <[shane.mills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:shane.mills@gov.bc.ca)>, Katy Merrifield <[Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Katy.Merrifield@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Fwd: CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

This is a story from last year where the VPD said they found pot laced with fentanyl.

It quoted an actual VPD officer.

<http://www.theprovince.com/touch/news/users+warned+about+toxic+fentanyl/11599857/story.html>

N

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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

**Date:** November 18, 2016 at 10:32:01 AM PST

**To:** Undisclosed recipients;;

**Subject:** CKNW: Lake - fentanyl-laced drugs

CKNW (Vancouver)

18-Nov-2016 10:00

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