

RE: ANSWER: Decriminalization - question

From: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dubuc, Michelle PREM:EX <Michelle.Dubuc@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 5, 2021 10:11:18 AM PST

Hi Michelle,

Apologies for the delay, it's been one of those weeks.

I've attached a note that you may find helpful but the short version is, Bill C-22 is consistent with some of our goals for decriminalization, but doesn't replace it.^{s.12}

We have not received any intel or ETA from Health Canada on when we can expect a response but I will let you know if we hear anything.

With thanks,

Tamara

From: Dubuc, Michelle PREM:EX <Michelle.Dubuc@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 5, 2021 9:55 AM

To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ANSWER: Decriminalization - question

Good morning "I just wanted to follow up on the below question re: Federal legislation? Also, do you have an ETA on when the Health Canada formal response might be expected?

Best,

Michelle Dubuc

OIC Coordinator | Cabinet Operations

New number: 778 974 5080

From: Dubuc, Michelle PREM:EX

Sent: March 3, 2021 11:23 AM

To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: ANSWER: Decriminalization - question

Thanks for this Tamara, that's helpful.

s.12

Many thanks,

Michelle Dubuc

OIC Coordinator | Cabinet Operations

New number: 778 974 5080

From: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 3, 2021 8:34 AM

To: Dubuc, Michelle PREM:EX <Michelle.Dubuc@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Murphy, Kayla MMHA:EX <Kayla.Murphy@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: ANSWER: Decriminalization - question

Hi Michelle,

s.12

With thanks,

Tamara Casanova | Director (*she/her*)

Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions

Executive Operations | Office of the Deputy Minister

Desk: 250.952.1125 | **Email:** tamara.casanova@gov.bc.ca

From: Dubuc, Michelle PREM:EX <Michelle.Dubuc@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: March 1, 2021 3:47 PM

To: Casanova, Tamara MMHA:EX <Tamara.Casanova@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Decriminalization - question

Hi Tamara – hope this finds you well. I wanted to touch base on the s.12
s.12

Thanks, feel free to give me a call if you’d like to discuss.

Michelle Dubuc

OIC Coordinator | Cabinet Operations

New number: 778 974 5080



Government Caucus Committee on Social Initiatives MINUTES

April 19, 2021
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Videoconference

Members Present:	Aman Singh	MLA (Chair)
	Honourable Mitzi Dean	CFD (Vice Chair)
	Honourable Katrina Chen	MoSCC
	Honourable Murray Rankin	IRR
	Honourable Nicholas Simons	SDPR
	Ronna-Rae Leonard	MLA
	Kelli Paddon	MLA
	Jennifer Rice	MLA
	Mike Starchuk	MLA
	Henry Yao	MLA
Members Absent:	Jinny Sims	MLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Acknowledgement of Territory

The Committee acknowledged it is meeting on the Traditional Territories across the Province including the Lekwungen Speaking People.

Committee Items

1. s.12; s.13

2.

Aman Singh, MLA
Chair

Date

C O N F I D E N T I A L



Government Caucus Committee Submission

Ministry: Mental Health and Addictions

Date: 19/04/2021

s.12; s.13



s.12; s.13; s.16



s.12; s.13; s.16



s.12; s.13; s.16



s.12; s.13

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s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16

Decriminalization Milestones and Deliverables

Last updated: September 1, 2021

Phase 1 (Complete)

Key Milestones for Phase 1:

- ✓ Hire staff and onboard new staff for new “Decriminalization Unit”
- ✓ Develop project plan and undertake foundational policy work (e.g., jurisdictional scan, policy issues papers)

Key Deliverables of Phase 1:

- ✓ Establish governance structure: ADM Working Group and Project Team
- ✓ Begin stakeholder engagement
 - ✓ Core Planning Table has met twice, with third meeting and workshops planned for next two weeks
 - ✓ Targeted engagement is underway with groups (e.g., Moms Stop the Harm) not represented at Core Planning Table and Indigenous stakeholders

Phase 2: August - October 2021 (Under way)

Key Milestones for Phase 2:

- ⇒ Outline S.56 exemption request to Health Canada: Sept 17th (first draft complete, awaiting feedback from Core Planning Table stakeholders and government partners)
- ☐ Complete S.56 request to Health Canada: Oct 31st
- ☐ Budget submission complete

Key Deliverables of Phase 2:

- ☐ Core Planning Table (CPT) Meetings
 - ✓ CPT Meeting 1: July 23rd and 27th
 - ✓ CPT Meeting 2: August 19
 - ☐ CPT Key Topic Workshop Sessions Sept 10th and 17th
 - ☐ CPT Meeting 4: September 23
 - ☐ CPT Meeting 5: October 7
 - ☐ CPT Meeting 6: October 21

CPT MEETINGS					
Date	#2: Aug. 19	#3: Sept. 9	#4: Sept. 23	#5: Oct. 7	#6: Oct. 21
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principles• Shared work plan & process• Approaches in Other Jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sec. 56 – Review Detailed Table of Contents• Eligibility Criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Populations (e.g., Adults)• Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternatives to Criminalization• Health System Readiness <p><i>½ day workshop – Sept. 10</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defining Simple Possession <p><i>½ day workshop – Sept. 17</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review full draft submission

Decriminalization Milestones and Deliverables

Last updated: September 1, 2021

- ☐ Indigenous collaboration and engagement
 - ⇒ First Nations Justice Council: Ongoing Monthly – next meeting Sept 3rd
 - ☐ Metis Nation BC Justice Council
 - ☐ First Nations Chiefs and Leaders (Town Hall?)
- ☐ Targeted Stakeholder engagement (all ongoing or in planning process)
 - ⇒ Drug Policy Advocacy Organizations (including People with Lived Experience)
 - ⇒ Chiefs of Police/Policing leadership
 - ☐ Municipal and local government
 - ⇒ Health Authorities
- ☐ Research and Analysis
 - ✓ Establish Research and Evaluation Working Group
 - s.13
 - ⇒ Law enforcement (municipal police, RCMP) data on arrests, seizures, quantities
 - ⇒ Health system capacity
- ☐ Exemption Submission
 - ⇒ Outline
 - ✓ Introduction/Background/Rationale
 - ✓ Principles
 - ⇒ Eligibility criteria
 - ☐ Alternatives to criminalization
 - ⇒ Health System Capacity
 - ☐ Defining Simple Possession
 - ☐ Approaches to Special Populations and Unique Circumstances
 - ⇒ Regional Considerations
 - ⇒ Evaluation and Monitoring
 - ☐ Implementation Readiness
- ☐ Identify financial implications
- ☐ Draft Budget submission (fall/winter 2021)
- ☐ Made in BC Approach: DM, MO, PO Briefings

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s.13

FW: Decrim - update

From: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
To: Smith, Grant H IGRS:EX <Grant.H.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 4, 2021 12:28:24 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, s.16
Last piece.

From: McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX
Sent: May 4, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX
Subject: Fwd: Decrim - update

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Newhook, Kelly MMHA:EX" <Kelly.Newhook@gov.bc.ca>
Date: May 4, 2021 at 12:24:44 PM PDT
To: "McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX" <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Geary, Vanessa PREM:EX" <Vanessa.Geary@gov.bc.ca>, "Olson, Michael GCPE:EX" <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Decrim - update

Hi Sheena,
s.13; s.16

Best,
Kelly Newhook (*she/her*)
Senior Ministerial Advisor
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson - Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
☎ 250-812-0447 (cell)
Kelly.newhook@gov.bc.ca

FW: PMO meeting tomorrow

From: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
To: Maranda, Pierrette IGRS:EX <Pierrette.Maranda@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Grant H IGRS:EX <Grant.H.Smith@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 7, 2021 8:51:43 AM PDT
Attachments: PMO meeting 20210505.docx
For our discussion this morning.

From: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX
Sent: May 4, 2021 5:58 PM
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>; McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Westgate, Rachael IGRS:EX <Rachael.Westgate@gov.bc.ca>; Maranda, Pierrette IGRS:EX <Pierrette.Maranda@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: PMO meeting tomorrow

Hi all – attached is a quick note prepared for me with some background for tomorrow morning's call, based on what we heard was the agenda this afternoon. Sharing for reference.

Geoff – Sheena and I have a few minutes before the call to give you a some more details.

Thanks,
Silas

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SECRETARIAT
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER**

MEETING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Deputy Minister Silas Brownsey
MEETING WITH: Meeting between B.C. Premier's Office, PMO and PCO
DATE AND TIME: May 5, 2021, 8:15-9:45 am

OVERVIEW:

Based on discussions with PCO officials, this meeting is expected to cover:

s.16

This meeting is a follow-up on recent high-level B.C.-Canada discussions on priority projects for the province and is intended to update participants on the status of these files and signal new opportunities.^{s.16}

s.16

Information on key items is provided in the note below.

Invitees for this meeting are Geoff Meggs, Lori Wanamaker, Silas Brownsey and Sheena McConnell for B.C.; Louise Baird for PCO; and Ben Chin, John Brodhead, Sarah Goodman and Sangeeta Lalli for PMO.

DISCUSSION:

s.13; s.16

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s.13 ; s.16

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MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS (YT)

PREPARED FOR: Premier John Horgan

MEETING: Western Premiers' Conference 2021

SUGGESTED MESSAGES:

s.13

BACKGROUND:

Context – Dual Public Health Emergencies

- On April 14, 2016, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) declared a public health emergency under the Public Health Act following an unprecedented increase in harm due to an unregulated drug supply that is unpredictable and highly toxic.
- Since 2016, over 7,000 British Columbians have died from illicit drug toxicity.
- The intersection of the public health emergencies of illicit drug toxicity and COVID-19 has exacerbated health inequities and the ongoing risk of illicit drug poisoning and other harms due to the toxic street drug supply.
- In 2020, there were 1,724 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths. This is the most deaths in a single year to date and represents a 75% increase over the number of deaths seen in 2019 (985). Among Indigenous people, drug toxicity deaths rose nearly 120% from 2019.
- The November 2020 “In Plain Sight” report on Indigenous-specific racism in the B.C. health system found widespread systemic racism affecting Indigenous peoples, which results in a range of negative impacts, harms, and even death.

Pathway to Hope

- *A Pathway to Hope* sets the 10-year vision for a new system of mental health and substance use care in B.C., with an emphasis on prevention, promotion, early intervention, and integrated services, that builds on existing initiatives and implements new, innovative approaches.
- Actions to improve the wellness of children, youth, and young adults, support Indigenous-led solutions, and improve access and quality of care are well underway, in addition to ongoing work to address the overdose crisis and establish systems of treatment and recovery for substance use.
- Our government is taking action to give British Columbians what they so desperately need and deserve: a seamless network of mental health and addictions care where people get the help they need when and where they need it.
- With approved investments of over \$500M in Budget 2021, plus previous investments in Budget 2017 and 2019 and federal funding, a total of \$1.247 billion will be spent over the fiscal plan to advance the vision of a Pathway to Hope, allowing real progress on true systems of care that offer coordinated services for mental health care and for substance use care, as well as accelerating the response to the overdose emergency.
- Examples of innovative initiatives being implemented as part of A Pathway to Hope include the following:

Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Teams

- ICY teams are community-based multidisciplinary teams which deliver wraparound mental health and substance use services and supports for children and youth aged 0-19 – with soft edges up to 21 years old to ensure smooth and appropriate transitions, so families and caregivers have the support they need to connect with the right service at the right time.
- Services are outreach based, work closely with schools, early years services, primary care, and connect children and youth to specialized and higher intensity services when needed. ICY

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teams are currently in implementation in 5 communities across B.C. and will be operational by the end of 2021/22.

Foundry

- Foundry is a network of centres and online supports that offer developmentally appropriate integrated health and wellness services and supports for young people ages 12-24. Each centre includes primary care, mental health and substance use services, peer and family support, and social services under one roof, making it easier for youth to get help when they need it.
- Currently there are 11 Foundry centres open across the province. B.C is committed to expanding Foundry from an existing 11 to a total of 23 centres province-wide by 2025/26.

Youth Substance Use Services

- In August 2020, government announced 123 new youth substance use beds across the province and enhance existing provincially accessible beds, doubling the number of beds available for youth in B.C., ensuring they get the care they need close to home.
- s.16
- B.C. Budget 2021 provided an historic investment for youth substance use over three years to implement a full suite of evidence-based and culturally safe services and supports that focus on problematic substance use prevention for young people, and connecting them to integrated care early before small problems become large.

Expanding Virtual Mental Health Services

- In response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, government provided funding to launch virtual mental health and substance use services to people across the province, with emphasis on children, youth, and young adults. This includes:
 - Launch of Foundry Virtual, which provides primary care, mental health and substance use services, and peer support to youth aged 12-24 across B.C.
 - Expanded virtual counselling through grants to community counselling agencies.
 - Expanded virtual services for people experiencing eating disorders through the Looking Glass Foundation.

Overdose Response

- To date, the Province has committed a total of \$756.5 million through 2022/23 to support an escalated response to the illicit drug toxicity emergency.
- The Overdose Emergency Response Centre (OERC) was established within MMHA in December 2017 to act as a coordination centre in the province-wide illicit drug toxicity emergency response and provide support to health authorities, frontline workers, peers, agencies and organizations and local, regional and First Nations governments.
- The provincial illicit drug toxicity emergency response spearheaded by the OERC has focused on the implementation of a comprehensive package of essential health sector interventions and strategies to reduce illicit drug toxicity deaths and drug related harms.

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Substance Use Treatment and Recovery

- 16 new and/or expanded integrated teams have been established to provide multidisciplinary care for adults experiencing substance use challenges and help people get connected and stay connected to care.
- In 2020/21, the Province announced additional funding to increase access to specialized treatment and recovery beds for those struggling with addiction, including 101 new beds for adults located across the province.
- Through Budget 2021, the B.C. Government is continuing to increase treatment and recovery services through new investments in withdrawal management, transition services, specialized treatment, and longer-term aftercare supports, including an additional 195 treatment and recovery beds.
- A Pathway to Hope also includes a commitment to develop a framework to build and guide improvement to the substance use system of care in B.C. The framework is currently under development and being informed by an Expert Advisory Panel, including peers and people with lived and living experience of substance use, clinicians and leaders from the health care system, researchers, Indigenous health leaders, and service providers from both the health and social sectors as well as targeted engagement with a diverse group of additional partners.

Decriminalization

- On April 14, 2021, the B.C. Government announced it will officially request a federal exemption from Health Canada to decriminalize personal possession of drugs in the province to remove the shame that often prevents people from reaching out for life-saving help.
- Officials with MMHA and Health Canada have been working on an agreement that outlines how the Province of B.C. will work with Health Canada to apply for a provincewide exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, which governs simple drug possession.

Indigenous-led Solutions

- A key focus for the Province is supporting Indigenous peoples to take on a larger role in the design, planning and delivery of mental health and substance use services and addressing Indigenous-specific racism in the health care system consistent with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (2019).
- The Province and B.C. First Nations work in partnership through a unique health governance structure that includes the only province wide First Nations health authority in Canada.
- The Province has made important investments to support First Nations-led approaches to mental health and wellness services, increase access to culturally safe treatment services through the construction of new First Nation-run treatment centres, and support a First Nations-led response to the overdose public health emergency.

Pharmaceutical Alternatives and Nurse Prescribing

- In September 2020, government announced that MMHA and the Ministry of Health will develop a policy to support prescribing of pharmaceutical alternatives to the toxic drug supply.
- This new policy will provide a broader range of medications to address the realities of high potency of illicit fentanyl and provide more specific guidance to support patient outcomes.

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- The public announcement of the new policy was accompanied by a public health order issued by the Provincial Health Officer authorizing registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses to prescribe medications to support individuals with opioid use disorder. Nurse prescribing is being phased in and has focused initially on opioid agonist treatment (OAT) medications.

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.16

FW: Decrim - update

From: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
To: Westgate, Rachael IGRS:EX <Rachael.Westgate@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 24, 2022 2:18:05 PM PST
Attachments: image001.png, ^{s.16}

From: McConnell, Sheena PREM:EX <Sheena.McConnell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 4, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Brownsey, Silas IGRS:EX <Silas.Brownsey@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Decrim - update

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Cc: "Geary, Vanessa PREM:EX" <Vanessa.Geary@gov.bc.ca>, "Olson, Michael GCPE:EX" <Michael.Olson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Decrim - update

Hi Sheena,
s.13; s.16

Best,
Kelly Newhook (*she/her*)
Senior Ministerial Advisor
Hon. Sheila Malcolmson - Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
☎ 250-812-0447 (cell)
Kelly.newhook@gov.bc.ca

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