

From: [Pescod, Casey PSSG:EX](#)
To: [Anderson, Lisa R PSSG:EX](#); [Mas, Sophie B PSSG:EX](#)
Cc: [Hodge, Jessica PSSG:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Article
Date: Friday, November 18, 2016 8:02:00 AM

I thought the title of that article was misleading. After reading, I believe that health officials and VPD are disputing whether the RECENT VPD seizure of marijuana was laced with fentanyl.

Looking at an article from last December, Vancouver police Const. Sandra Glendinning insisted that "absolutely" police are seeing fentanyl in marijuana:

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

Casey

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, Lisa R PSSG:EX
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 5:14 AM
To: Mas, Sophie B PSSG:EX; Pescod, Casey PSSG:EX
Cc: Hodge, Jessica PSSG:EX
Subject: Article

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

Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 8:36 AM
To: Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX
Subject: Fwd: Marijuana laced fentanyl

fyi Van PD clarifying in media.

DS

Begin forwarded message:

From: "McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX" <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
Date: November 18, 2016 at 8:27:12 AM PST
To: "Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX" <Sarah.Plank@gov.bc.ca>, "Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX" <Perry.Kendall@gov.bc.ca>, "Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX" <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, "Gill, Manjit PSSG:EX" <Manjit.Gill@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX" <Donna.Sitter@gov.bc.ca>, "Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX" <Kate.Trotter@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX" <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, "Cascaden, Lori R GCPE:EX" <Lori.Cascaden@gov.bc.ca>, "Anderson, Kristy GCPE:EX" <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, "O'Brien, Kellie HLTH:EX" <Kellie.O'Brien@gov.bc.ca>, "Dhillon, Harbir PSSG:EX" <Harbir.Dhillon@gov.bc.ca>
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.monlaque@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

Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX

From: Kendall, Perry HLTH:EX
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 8:34 AM
To: Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX
Subject: Fw: Marijuana laced fentanyl

FYI

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

From: McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>
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

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CAROLINE MCANDREWS

Communications Director

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Ph: 250 356-1196

Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX

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 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.s.22 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:

- 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.

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

Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 3:11 PM
To: Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX
Subject: evidence - marijuana laced with fentanyl

Ah ha - we didn't get this either:

From: Trotter, Kate GCPE:EX
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:52 PM
To: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX; McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX
Subject: evidence - marijuana laced with fentanyl

Marijuana laced with Fentanyl

Masset

2016-11-09 12:07 PST

File # 2016-1368

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- slowed heart rate
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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
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[@bccrmp](https://twitter.com/bccrmp)

Senior Public Affairs Officer
Public Safety & Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice
250 356-6391

Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX

From: Sitter, Donna GCPE:EX
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 4:42 PM
To: Pecknold, Clayton PSSG:EX
Subject: FYI CHNL: Morris - fentanyl-laced marijuana

From: tno@gov.bc.ca [<mailto:tno@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 4:41 PM
Subject: CHNL: Morris - fentanyl-laced marijuana

CHNL (Kamloops)

18-Nov-2016 16:04

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