



Skwxwú7mesh
Úxwumixw

To the Squamish People,

We are facing an unprecedented health crisis.

2023 was one of the most devastating years on record for toxic drug overdoses and overdose deaths in the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw. The toxic drug overdose crisis we are currently facing has far-reaching consequences, touching every one of us in the community.

Ensuring the health and safety of our Members is Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw (Council)'s number one priority. That is why Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw recently voted in favour of a resolution declaring a community Health State of Emergency. The goal of declaring a Health State of Emergency is to save lives and create a safer community for all.

This resolution will enable Nexwsxwníwntm ta Úxwumixw to escalate this pressing issue and immediately request additional support from the federal, provincial, neighbouring local governments, and local law enforcement agencies in order to deliver a comprehensive and culturally appropriate response to this health emergency.

This holistic approach will enable the Nation to work collaboratively with its departments and health provider partners to both increase access to existing Member services (both on- and off-reserve) and create additional services, including:

- Safe consumption (harm reduction strategies)
- Drug checking sites and community education
- Distributing safe use supplies and Naloxone training
- Supervised drug consumption site(s)
- Primary care providers (Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners)
- Mobile Outreach & Overdose Prevention Unit
- Detox and addictions treatment (counselling, medication such as OAT)
- Mental health and substance use disorder supports (to maintain sobriety and relapse prevention)
- Culturally appropriate temporary emergency housing options
- A Trauma-Informed Community Safety Team



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- Additional social programs as required

We will announce further details of the additional resources and strategies available in the coming weeks.

To find more information, please head to squamish.net/toxic-drug-crisis. If you are need of support or would like more details concerning existing community resources, please contact Yúustway (Health & Wellness):

Office hours support: Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

- Mackenzie Gomez – Manager, Community Health and Wellness
- Phone: 604-360-3911 or 604-982-7812
- Email: Mackenzie_Gomez@squamish.net

After hours support:

- Danielle Hearn – Mental Health & Substance Use Clinician
- Phone: 604-351-5776
- Email: Danielle_Hearn@squamish.net

Harm Reduction support:

- Betty Ferguson – Harm Reduction Program Lead/Wellness Coordinator
- Phone: 236-788-1977
- Email: Betty_Ferguson@squamish.net

Chet wanáxwstúmi (respectfully),

Squamish Nation Council