

June 2017

## Opioid Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategies

### Harm Reduction:

- Opened 8 Overdose Prevention Sites across Vancouver Island to provide harm reduction supplies, timely intervention in the event of overdose, peer supports and connections to other services.
- Embedded and expanded needle exchange services in front-line Island Health and community agency locations (e.g. Public Health Units, Mental Health and Substance Use services and Non-Governmental Organizations) to provide multiple, accessible locations for clean supplies.
- Submitted an application for Supervised Consumption Service in Victoria with two more applications pending in Victoria and Nanaimo.
- Expanded and enhanced Naloxone kit distribution and training targeted at high risk groups/individuals, community agency service providers and Island Health staff in Mental Health and Substance Use Services, Emergency Departments, etc.
- Enhanced Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (Victoria) and Central Island Crisis Response to include response to opioid overdoses.
- Expanded community outreach workers through contracts with agencies which serve drug-using populations to conduct education, outreach and connectivity in housed and non-housed populations.

### Treatment and Intervention:

- Added 42 new supportive recovery treatment beds across Vancouver Island, including five stabilization beds to support post-detox care.
- Opened a Rapid Access Addiction Clinic in Victoria (OAT) to increase capacity and provide timely access for clients seeking opioid agonist treatment or methadone treatment. This service also links to other community services and ensures smooth transitions for clients through recovery programs.
- Increased education to service providers, Emergency Department physicians/staff and Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) clinics on the evidence and effectiveness of OAT.
- Increased public and stakeholder awareness around where and how OAT services can be accessed.
- Enhanced connectivity, linkages and referrals within mental health and substance use service continuum.
- Integrated with Central Access and Rapid Engagement Services (CARES) and Sobering and Assessment Centre for rapid access to Mental Health and Substance Use programs, including specialist consultation and harm reduction supplies.