

# Supervised consumption service siting

Nanaimo Public Safety Committee  
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# Context

- Pre-2013 – Nanaimo zoning bylaw 4500 restricted unique wording to preclude supervise injection site and methadone clinics.
- October 2013 – first Nanaimo fatalities related to fentanyl crisis
- April 2016 – State of public health emergency regarding overdose crisis
- January 2017 – establishment of overdose prevention site
- May 2017 - recommended site specific zoning for a supervised consumption site was rejected by Nanaimo City Council
- February 2018 – MHO report to Nanaimo City Council recommending Council address the obstacle to substance use treatment found in the definition of a Drug Addiction Treatment Facility of the City of Nanaimo zoning bylaw 4500.
- July 2018 – Council received report on zoning bylaw changes to address supervised consumption services

# Comparison - operation

## Current Supervised Consumption Service

- Professional supervision
- Peer support workers
- On site service supports
- Linkage to treatment and care services
- Longer hours of operation
- Increased booth capacity for concurrent users
- Post consumption area
- Regulated and monitored under *Controlled Substances Act*

## Overdose Prevention site

- Paraprofessional supervision of consumption
- Peer support worker
- May have referral options available
- Harm reduction supply distribution
- Contingent on state of public health emergency and political shifts
- Minimal quality oversight, sanctioned and unsanctioned sites.

# Comparisons - Impact

## Supervised consumption sites

- No deaths
- Effective in supporting persons into care
- In-Site only - evaluated with longer term improvement in area.
- In-site only - Reduced neighbourhood drug use.

## Overdose prevention sites

- No deaths in site, deaths in proximity
- Effectiveness in supporting persons into care not established
- Impact on neighbourhood in small communities – currently being evaluated (not Nanaimo)
- Reports of increased aggregation, public drug use out of site and out of hours

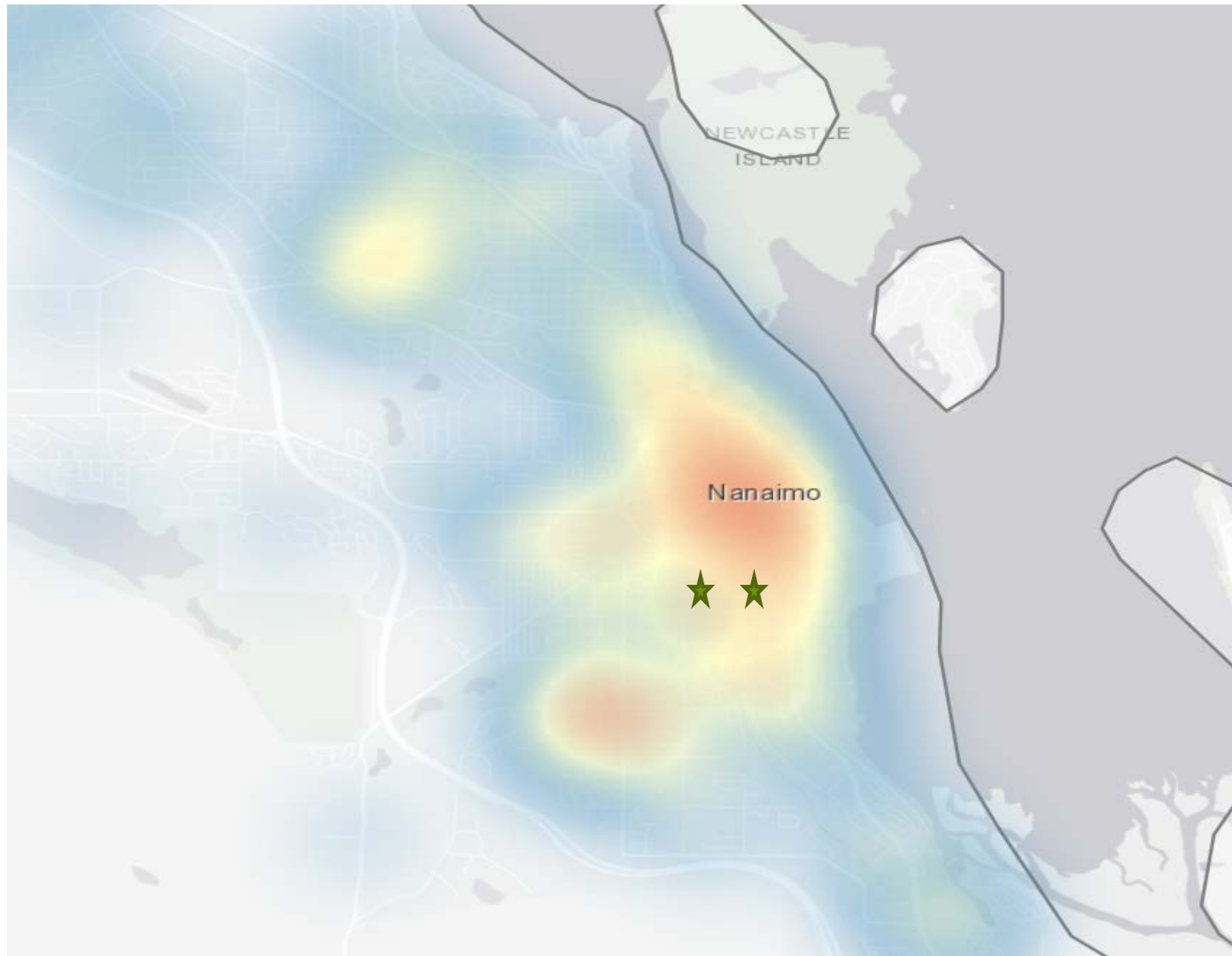
# Siting considerations

- Not limited to
  - Availability and site stability
  - Proximity to needs
  - Proximity to support services
  - Separation distances
  - Capital costs
  - Operational costs
  - Contracting requirements
  - Legal requirements (eg zoning, leases, agreements)
  - Community interaction

# Nanaimo event locations

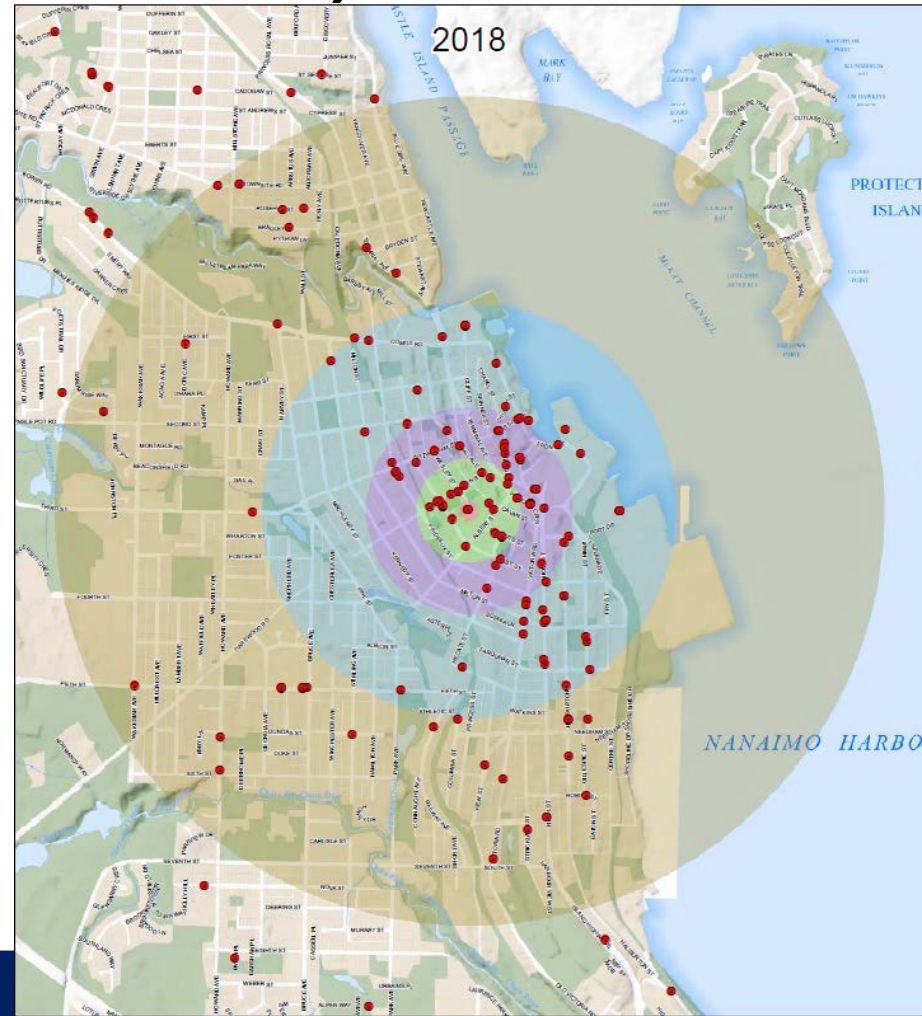
- Ambulance calls for overdoses
  - Captures most events
- Fire department responses
  - Change in responses beginning 2018
- Fatalities – coroner's service by location of overdose event

# Ambulance (Apr 2017– Apr 2018)



# Fire department – reduced OD responses since January 2018

- half within 1 km zone
- Few differences in location or dispersion over 2016-2018





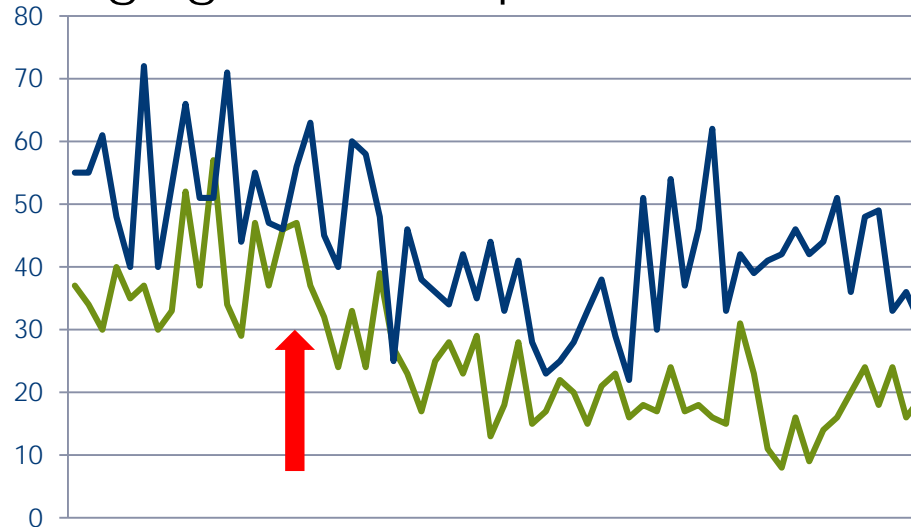
# Coroner's data

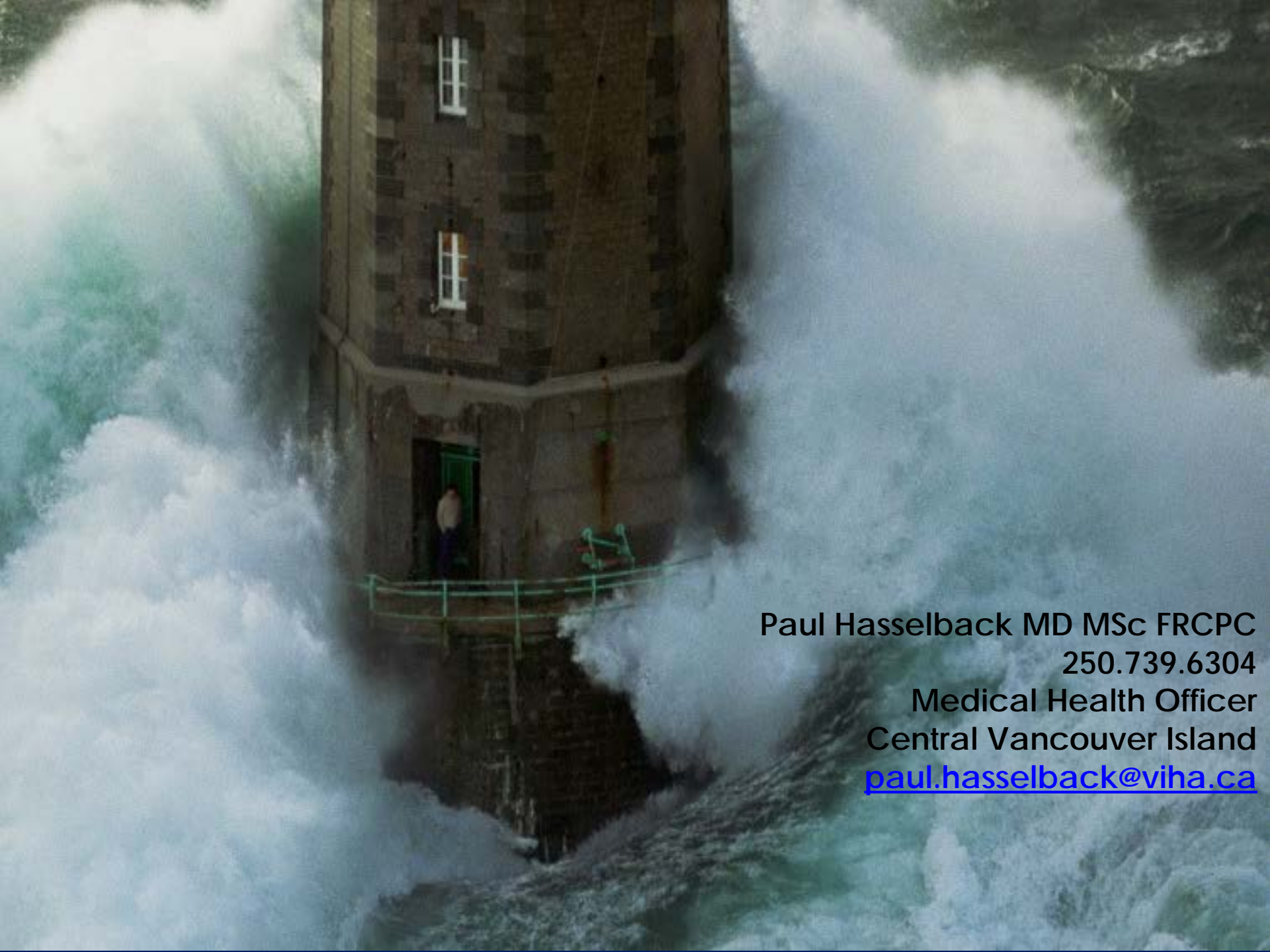
- 50% within walking zone of core
- Remainder widely distributed throughout Nanaimo

# Nanaimo's natural experiment

## What happened with encampment?

- On site consumption reduced ~50%
  - Notable reduction by number of frequent users
  - Now averaging ~150 visits per week
- On site other supports – reduced ~25%
  - Now averaging ~280 visits per week





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