

Delegation Request

Delegation's Information:

Beverley Planes has requested an appearance before Council.

City: Nanaimo

Province: BC

Delegation Details:

The requested date is 2025-DEC-01

The requested meeting is:
Council

Bringing a presentation: Yes

Details of the Presentation: Motion regarding letter to Province on decriminalization, overdose prevention services and the Overdose Prevention Site at 250 Albert Street.

I am requesting time to speak to Councillor Thorpe's motion asking the Province to "reexamine its philosophy" on the toxic drug crisis, decriminalization and so-called "enabling drug use at consumption sites," with specific reference to Nanaimo's only Overdose Prevention Site at 250 Albert Street. I will be speaking as a Nanaimo resident, a mother, a survivor of the toxic drug crisis, and a Peer Research Associate with the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research. I have lived and worked on the frontlines of this crisis. I know, in very concrete terms, what actually reduces deaths and visible "disorder," and what simply pushes drug use back into alleys, cars, tents and single rooms where no one can intervene when something goes wrong. My presentation will directly challenge the framing of harm reduction and supervised consumption as "enabling." I will connect local mortality data, frontline experience and provincial policy gaps to show that undermining or politically targeting the Overdose Prevention Site at 250 Albert Street, in a city with nearly double the provincial overdose death rate, does not solve problems for neighbourhoods; it increases preventable deaths, trauma and long-term costs for families, businesses and the wider community. The specific outcome I am asking for is that Council: * Reject any motion or language that characterizes overdose prevention services as "enabling" or as a failure; * Formally reaffirm Council's support for evidence-based harm reduction, including the OPS at 250 Albert Street and the planned wellness and recovery centre; and * Direct staff to work in genuine partnership with people with lived and living experience to address concerns around the site without undermining life-saving services, in ways that reduce reliance on police and strengthen safety for every member of our community.