



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
Councillor Kiersten Duncan at 604-652-2061
cduncan@mapleridge.ca

School Trustee Susan Carr at
Susan_Carr@sd42.ca

Maple Ridge Strong Kids Team Push for Access to Naloxone

Maple Ridge, BC: In response to the fentanyl crisis in BC the Strong Kids Team hosted a 'Fentanyl Forum' where an estimated 500 community members acquired information about the dangers of fentanyl, how to respond to an overdose and how to access Naloxone.

Following the forum the Chair of the Strong Kids Team, School Trustee Susan Carr, along with Co-Chair Councillor Kiersten Duncan, discovered that Take Home Naloxone (THN) kits are not readily available to anyone who wants one.

"It is absolutely critical that our residents are able to access this life saving medication, especially in a time of crisis" said Councillor Duncan who urged the Province at the Tuesday, October 11 Council meeting to expand the eligibility for THN kits from strictly opioid users and people with a history of using who have completed the THN training, to anyone desiring a kit.

Below are two related articles with information on Naloxone

- fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/harm-reduction/overdose-prevention-and-response/where-can-you-get-naloxone/
- towardtheheart.com/ezine/3/take-home-naloxone-program

"None of our care clinics carry Naloxone and the few pharmacies that do, sell it in large containers roughly the size of a laptop. With a cost of \$50.00, many people can't afford it and the way it's marketed is not only inconvenient, but discourages people from carrying it in the

event of an emergency.” In Maple Ridge, Alouette Addictions is currently offering THN kits, but School Trustee Susan Carr cautions their hours are limited and kits are only available to people who meet the criteria for the program.” In addition, every person presenting to the Emergency Department at Ridge Meadows Hospital with an overdose is offered a THN kit.

“Fentanyl does not discriminate; we’re seeing recreational users and people experimenting for the first time overdosing. Both Kiersten and I are trained to administer Naloxone and encourage everyone to become aware of the signs and symptoms of overdose, obtain basic first aid and to purchase a kit.” Both Councillor Duncan and Trustee Carr have pledged to wear THN kits to bring awareness to the importance of having Naloxone accessible to everyone and encourage others to get trained and purchase a kit.

At the October 19 School District meeting, Susan Carr proposed a motion requesting that the Board Chair send a letter to the Ministry of Education, Health and Children and the Ministry of Family Development urging them to jointly create (with partner group consultation) comprehensive best practice provincial standards for addressing substance use and possible incidents of overdose in BC middle and secondary schools including protocols for training and administering Naloxone. This motion passed unanimously and was supported by the City of Maple Ridge.

For more information on the Strong Kids Team please contact the Chair Susan Carr at Susan_Carr@sd42.ca or the Co-Chair Kiersten Duncan at kduncan@mapleridge.ca.