A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:

RESPONDING TO THE TOXIC DRUG CRISIS FOR FIRST NATIONS

A Framework for Action: Responding to the toxic drug crisis for First Nations captures a system-wide response to slow and stop toxic drug death. The Framework for Action is focused on the most urgent goal of preventing deaths while also supporting First Nations broader mental health and wellness goals. Slowing and stopping toxic drug death is a shared responsibility, this Framework for Action is guided by Reciprocal Accountability and underpinned by our teachings of cultural safety.

Implementation will be supported by continuous efforts to improve real-time data from communities and health data sources. The four goals are:

- 1) Prevent people who experience drug poisoning from dying
- 2) Keep people safer when using

- 3) Create an accessible range of treatment options
- 4) Support people on their healing journey

SUPPORT PEOPLE ON THEIR HEALING JOURNEY

- Focus on aftercare by: increasing consistency of services that support healing from trauma; proactively removing impediments to access; and supporting consistent pathways and linkages across service providers. Examine gaps in treatment centres in Fraser and Vancouver Coastal regions.
- Develop and resource comprehensive pain management approaches which include non-pharmacological options.
- Long-term: Build and enhance social and emotional resilience and connection with culture (i.e. access to counseling, Elders and cultural activities, health promotion activities).

CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE RANGE OF TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Access to injectable opioid agonist therapy (hydromorphone).
- Indigenous specific treatment beds.
- Ensure wrap-around support (cultural, counselling, other) for all treatment options.
- Expand mobile treatment/detox options.
- Improve follow-up after drug poisoning and discharge.
- Expand telehealth options.
- Increase OAT services in community and rural settings.
- Expand substance use and pain management supports in primary care settings.
- Expand cultural based (including on-the-land) treatment options.

KEEP PEOPLE SAFER WHEN USING

- Prevent diversion from prescribed opioids to tainted street drugs.
- Increase number of and usage of Safe Consumption Sites.
- Implement drug checking opportunities.
- Public Education about risk.

PREVENT PEOPLE WHO EXPERI-ENCE DRUG POISONING FROM DYING

- Access to naloxone & knowledge of how to administer.
- Reduce stigma and mitigate risk for people using alone.
- Improve community-911 linkage.
- Increase awareness of Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act.
- Ensure services are culturally safe and trauma-informed.

