



NOV 30 2018

THE CORPORATION OF
THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS**Online Delegation Form****YOUR WORSHIP, MAYOR KONRAD, AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, I/WE ARE HERE THIS EVENING ON BEHALF OF:**

Selkirk College and The University of Victoria

TO REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER:

Supporting a street outreach program for marginalized people in Grand Forks.

THE REASONS THAT I/WE ARE REQUESTING THIS ACTION ARE:

Over the past 3 months, my classmate and I, as well as our field guide Robin Van Stolk have been working with various service providers in the Boundary to develop a Resource Navigation Tool for people with mental health and substance use challenges in Grand Forks. We have completed the Tool and it is now accessible from many care providers in the community. While we were developing the tool, we identified various strengths gaps in community services. One of the biggest barriers we recognized was "accessibility to resources", which is largely a result of stigma and a lack of resources.

To address this challenge, we suggest supporting a street outreach program in Grand Forks.

I/WE BELIEVE THAT IN APPROVING OUR REQUEST THE COMMUNITY WILL BENEFIT BY:

We believe a street outreach program would be very beneficial to the community, allowing care providers to meet clients where they feel most comfortable and provide aid as needed. By making harm reduction equipment, clothing, and hygiene supplies more accessible to marginalized populations, Grand Forks would see a decrease in substance use disorders, communicable diseases, and overdose deaths. Many citizens would have better access to condoms, feminine hygiene products, vitamins, and education, which they may not be able to afford otherwise.

We ran a brief outreach service on the 20th of November at the local food bank, where our services were very well received. On that day, we spoke with several members of the community and several staff members the food bank who all stated seeing value in the potential street outreach program.

I/WE BELIEVE THAT BY NOT APPROVING OUR REQUEST THE RESULT WILL BE:

Currently, we are in the midst of the opioid epidemic, which is primarily effecting people with mental health and addiction issues. These people cannot be swept under the rug and ignored, as they are at the greatest risk of suffering injury or death related to their medical challenges. Last year, 8 people died of fentanyl overdoses in Grand Forks. Given the population size of the city, this sums up to approximately 1 in 500 people suffering fatal overdoses throughout 2017. This is one of the highest overdose to population ratios in all of British Columbia. We feel a street nursing initiative would help decrease the number of overdose related deaths, and help people who use substances reduce the risk of contracting a communicable disease.

IN CONCLUSION, I/WE REQUEST THAT COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS ADOPT A RESOLUTION STATING:

We support the development and implementation of a street outreach program to help marginalized populations in Grand Forks (and the Boundary Area) stay safe and healthy.

NAME

FILE CODE

D2 - Selkirk College
+ UVic



Ty Wright and Gwendilyn Grieves

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