

To Northern municipalities, First Nations communities, and RCMP detachments:

With the conclusion of British Columbia's decriminalization pilot on January 31, 2026, Northern Health and First Nations Health Authority would like to affirm our commitment to working with you to support the health and safety of people in Northern communities.

The change in provincial policy may have raised questions around harm reduction programs and service delivery. For clarity, Overdose Prevention Sites, drug checking services and all associated supports continue to operate under existing authorities. These services remain fully designated through the [Ministerial Order](#) and federal exemptions.

Above life-saving services are critical in addressing the ongoing public health emergency. Maintaining low-barrier access to these services is essential to ensuring people who use substances are not pushed further into isolation or unsafe environments and are connected to care.

We value opportunities to work with municipalities, First Nations communities and the RCMP to achieve positive health outcomes for Northern communities. We hope to advance with you a health-based approach to substance use and community safety, which are interconnected and complementary goals.

Thank you for the work you do every day to support the well-being of the people we collectively serve.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jong Kim, MD MSc FRCPC
Chief Medical Health Officer
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Michelle Lawrence
Executive Director, Specialized
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Dr. Nel Wieman
Chief Medical Officer
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