

April 7, 2020



Dear Doctor Mark Tyndall,

The purpose of this letter is to express the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association's (DVBIA) support for the MySafe Project. The DVBIA understands that the overdose crisis is a national public health emergency and a problem faced by many large cities throughout the world and has long supported Vancouver's four pillars drug strategy of harm reduction, treatment, prevention and enforcement. The DVBIA went on record in 2018 to support supervised injection sites in downtown Vancouver and called on the federal government in 2020 to expand safe supply drug programs in Vancouver and across Canada as a means of preventing further overdose deaths.

The DVBIA believes that what is needed now is for cities to implement and expand innovative programs such as the MySafe Project that prioritize diversion to safe supply. While preventing deaths is the ultimate priority, the connection between property crime downtown and drug illicit drug dependency is also a reality that should not be overlooked. There is a direct connection between break-ins and users feeding their drug habits. Police enforcement and education campaigns can only go so far; we are at the point where we need to look at other options, including improving access to a safe supply.

It is the belief of the DVBIA that provision of low-barrier access to a safe drug supply is what is needed now to truly make a positive difference. The DVBIA is supportive of any initiatives that align with the four pillars drug strategy. The MySafe Project aligns with this strategy and offers a scalable means of providing access to a safe supply thereby reducing fatal and non-fatal overdoses in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gauthier".

Charles Gauthier, MCP  
President and CEO

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