

John Horgan, BC NDP Party Leader  
#320 - 34 West 7th Ave Vancouver, BC  
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CC:

September 25th, 2020,

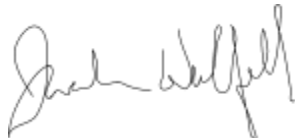
Dear Mr. Horgan,

As you know, British Columbia is in the midst of two public health emergencies- the overdose crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association for Safe Supply (CASS), Canada's only national non-profit organization focused on ensuring access and supply to legal and regulated drugs for people at risk of overdose. Systematic reviews have found that when compared to existing treatments like methadone or Suboxone participants in prescription diacetylmorphine programming had greater retention in treatment, reduction in illicit drug use, and reduced criminal activity.

Needless to say, I am writing in regards to the overdose crisis. During the recent period of COVID-19 related self isolation measures there has been a concerning increase in overdose deaths, which are being compounded by the public health measures enacted to keep British Columbian's safe from COVID-19. CASS represents a large constituency both in British Columbia, as well as across Canada, on behalf of our provincial membership we are reaching out to each of the party leaders with some questions to understand how each party would address the overdose crisis if elected, as well as their stance on safe supply.

I am hopeful to hear back from you regarding this most pressing crisis. I am sending the same questions and letter to each party leader in the interest of fairness and objectivity. I am looking forward to your response. Please see the next page for the questions.

Your sincerely,



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**Questions:**

1. Could you please outline and explain how your party will develop drug policy to meet the needs of those affected by the current crisis resulting from the toxic supply permeating the illicit drug market.
  
2. Does your party agree the current level of revenue and resources are adequate to address the overdose crisis? How would your party adjust the budget to take on the crisis?
  
3. Would your party consider providing legal and regulated alternatives to the illicit market? If so, please explain how.
  
4. Does your party support expanding access to opioids and stimulants within the medical system such as extending prescribing privileges to nurses and pharmacists? Would your party consider options to provide opioids and stimulants to people outside of the medical system, such as through a compassion club? Does your party have other ideas for providing access to legal and regulated drugs?