



**THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**

Resolution No.:

Title: Opioid Crisis

Date: November 23, 2020

Moved by: _____
Mayor R. Bonnette

Seconded by: _____
Councillor C. Somerville

WHEREAS the opioid crisis is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death on average about every two hours and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020);

AND WHEREAS other countries have significantly reduced drug-related fatalities with reforms such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply and decriminalization for personal use;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has indicated it is premature to discuss these measures until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well;

AND WHEREAS supports are needed, but measures that save lives are essential if people are to survive and access supports;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has stated that they agree the evidence suggests “decriminalization for simple possession as an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use”, causing the government to indicate that it is now “deliberating” over decriminalization;

AND WHEREAS the overdose crisis rages, showing few signs of abating.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency so that it is taken seriously and funded appropriately;

AND FURTHER THAT the Government of Canada immediately seek input from the people most affected by this crisis and meet with provinces and territories to develop a comprehensive, pan-Canadian overdose action plan, which includes comprehensive supports and full consideration of reforms that other countries have used to significantly reduce drug-related fatalities and stigma, such as legal regulation of illicit drugs to ensure safe supply of pharmaceutical alternatives to toxic street drugs, and decriminalization for personal use;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, Moms Stop the Harm, Michael Chong, MP Wellington-Halton Hills, Halton Region, the City of Burlington, the Town of Milton and the Town of Oakville.

Mayor Rick Bonnette