

September 20, 2018

Campbell River Community Action Team seeking project coordinator for overdose response

The Campbell River Communication Action Team (CAT) is seeking a project coordinator to guide the team's overdose crisis response efforts.

Earlier this summer, the Campbell River CAT received approval for \$100,000 from the provincial Overdose Emergency Response Centre to address the ongoing public health emergency with on-the-ground strategies, tailored to the community's needs.

The Campbell River CAT is a collaborative team including first responders, Indigenous partners, School District 72, AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI), Island Health, the Division of Family Practice, City of Campbell River, front-line agencies and organizations, people and families with lived experience, volunteers, and government agencies engaged in addressing the ongoing public health emergency.

"I'm very encouraged by the CAT's proactive response to the crisis," said Dr. Charmaine Enns, Island Health's Medical Health Officer. "All of the partners are such active participants, and their collective effort is so powerful in bringing the actions that will support our community to save lives and bring hope to people who use substances."

The City acts as the administrator for the one-time grant from the province on behalf of the CAT.

"On behalf of the entire community, we are grateful that the Province and the Overdose Emergency Response Centre have provided funding and support for community initiatives to address the overdose crisis," said Mayor Andy Adams. "Using a portion of the funding to hire a local expert to coordinate the CAT's work and get its programs up and running as soon as possible will be key to helping Campbell River's Community Action Team move ahead with overdose response."

In addition to the coordinator, the one-time CAT grant will support an outreach capacity-building program to provide harm reduction, therapy referrals, and strategies to reach those using substances alone. A Community Trauma Assessment and Action Plan program will help to better understand the root causes of trauma and addiction, and bring greater understanding of trauma and Indigenous approaches to healing and wellness.

"The response needs of our communities are being addressed with knowledge, thoughtfulness and compassion," said Kim Roberts, Health Director, Kwakiutl District Council. "This is the benefit of a strong collaboration like the Community Action Team. Everyone's voice is heard, and there is the added richness of First Nations' involvement and contributions."

Find out more about the project coordinator position requirements online at

<https://www.divisionsbc.ca/campbell-river-district>

Campbell River Community Action Team members include: BCEHS, Campbell River Fire Department, City of Campbell River, Division of Family Practice, Island Health, First Nations Health Authority, RCMP, Vancouver Island Mental Health Services, KDC Health, AVI, John Howard Society, North Island 2nd Chance Recovery, School District 72, Strathcona Regional District

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