

February 4, 2026

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am writing to you in my capacity as a physician who has worked in addiction medicine for more than 20 years. Over the course of my career, I have seen firsthand how access to appropriate, medically supervised detoxification services can change the trajectory of individuals, families, and entire communities.

I am aware that there has been discussion and concern regarding the idea of a local detox program. At this stage, I am not writing to advocate for immediate implementation, but rather to strongly encourage Council to support the writing of a formal letter expressing interest in learning more about what a detox service could look like in our community, and what supports are already in place.

Importantly, this conversation does not begin in isolation. There is Health Authority support for exploring detox services, and there is also meaningful support from local physicians who are willing and prepared to contribute their expertise and manpower. From a clinical standpoint, this local physician engagement is critical and reassuring. In addition, there is strong reason to be optimistic that provincial support could be available through the Road to Recovery program.

From my professional experience, communities that take the time to learn, ask informed questions, and explore evidence-based options are better positioned to make decisions that enhance public safety, improve health outcomes, and reduce long-term costs associated with untreated addiction.

I respectfully encourage Council to consider writing a letter of support to learn more about detox services, the resources available to us, and how such a program could be responsibly designed to meet the needs of our community. Supporting exploration and education is a prudent and constructive first step.

Thank you for your time and for your ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely,



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*I respectfully acknowledge that I am an uninvited settler on this land, and that my work place is within the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territory of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations.*