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July 15, 2022

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Duclos:

Re: Decriminalization of Personal Possession of Illicit Drugs

On June 8, 2022, at a regular meeting of the Board for the Timiskaming Health Unit, the Board considered a staff report related to addressing substance use related harms.

Motion (#25R-2022) was passed which included the following:

That the Timiskaming Board of Health support the call on the federal government to decriminalize the possession of all illicit drugs for personal use as an evidence-informed approach that acknowledges that substance use is a health issue and not one of morality, will power or criminal justice and, further that the federal government support the immediate scale up of prevention, harm reduction, and treatment services...

The Timiskaming Health Unit fully supports the above recommendation, and thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carman Kidd, Board of Health Chair

- C: Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions / Associate Minister of Health
Hon. Anthony Rota, Member of Parliament Nipissing-Timiskaming
Hon. Charlie Angus, Member of Parliament Timmins-James Bay
Jeff McGuire, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Aviva Rotenberg, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies