

November 8, 2021

The Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee, M.L.A, Minister of Health and Social Services  
Yukon Legislative Assembly  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 2C6



CC:

Ms. Kate White, M.L.A., Leader of the Yukon New Democratic Party  
Mr. Currie Dixon, M.L.A., Leader of the Official Opposition  
Dr. Catherine Elliot, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health

Dear Minister McPhee,

We are writing to you, as we strongly believe that the Yukon should use every tool at its disposal in the fight against the opioid overdose crisis. To that end, we strongly urge the government to immediately make nasal naloxone accessible throughout Yukon to all Yukoners.

As you know, the territory has made considerable strides to combat the overdose crisis through the opening of the Supervised Consumption Site, increases to drug checking programs and supporting mental health and addictions care in the Yukon. However, we know that the Yukon can be doing more to save lives and that includes making nasal naloxone publicly available and free of charge at front line agencies, government facilities and pharmacies. This will have a significant impact on the ability of Yukoners to save lives in their communities.

Currently, the Yukon government makes intramuscular injection naloxone available throughout the territory through the Take Home Naloxone program. Since that launching this program, nasal naloxone has become available in Canada. Currently the provinces of Ontario and Quebec offer nasal naloxone as an option along with intramuscular. In these provinces, the nasal naloxone option is overwhelmingly favoured by many people in particular those who are needle-hesitant or have dexterity issues. There continues to be a high level of stigma towards injection drug use in the Yukon and many people who use drugs are hesitant to carry injectable naloxone for this reason. Nasal naloxone is also easier to administer, especially when an individual may already be heightened by witnessing and responding to an overdose.

We continue to see increasing rates of overdose in our territory and the Yukon Government must be doing everything possible to limit the deaths of its citizens as a result of the overdose crisis. Nasal naloxone is an efficient and easy to use tool to add to the territory's toolbox when it comes to building responses to the overdose crisis and improving the ability for all Yukoners to help save lives. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

Bronte Renwick-Shields  
Executive Director  
Blood Ties Four

Peter Johnston  
Grand Chief  
Council of Yukon First Nations

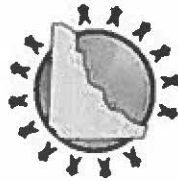
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