



ADAM PALMER  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

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June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

Last year I wrote to you about the opioid crisis and my concerns about how it may impact our youth. Since then the situation has worsened. Fentanyl is still the main cause of fatal and non-fatal overdoses in B.C.

The Vancouver Police Department continues to find fentanyl mixed with a variety of street drugs. It's 40 to 50 times stronger than heroin and a very small amount can cause overdose or death. You can't smell it, taste it or see it and most people are unaware that they are consuming it.

The risk of serious harm is not specific to hardened drug users. Recreational users and those trying street drugs for the first time, including our youth, are also in danger.

While there has been considerable news coverage about the dangers of drug use, youth often feel invincible and this may provide them with a false sense of security. We believe that parents and caregivers have an important influence in their children's lives, and you can play a critical role in keeping your children safe.

Please encourage them to **CALL 9-1-1** immediately for help if they see or know of someone they believe is suffering from a drug overdose.

It is important for youth to know that they won't get in trouble for calling 9-1-1. The primary concern of emergency responders is the well-being of anyone requiring medical assistance.

We can all help share good information, dispel myths, and encourage open, non-judgmental conversations with youth. There are resources available to help you have an informed conversation:

- [Drug Overdose Information Card](#)
- [BC Chief Medical Health Officer Letter](#)
- [Info Kit for Schools & Parents- FHA](#)
- [www.towardtheheart.com/fentanyl/](http://www.towardtheheart.com/fentanyl/)
- [www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy)

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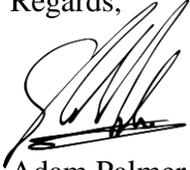
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

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Let's continue to work together and ensure that everyone has the information and support they need to make healthy and safe choices.

For more information, please contact the Vancouver Police Youth Services Unit at (604) 717-3144.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Palmer', with a horizontal line underneath.

Adam Palmer  
Chief Constable

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