



HEALTH
JUSTICE



Media Advisory of Press Conference: Bill 22 Stands to Increase the Opioid Crisis and Youth Deaths; Bill 22 Must be Withdrawn

WHAT: The Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Health Justice, and BC Civil Liberties Association are hosting a press conference urging the provincial government to withdraw Bill 22. Bill 22 proposes amendments to BC's *Mental Health Act* to create a new form of detention and involuntary health care in BC for youth who have experienced an overdose.

Speakers will address key concerns with Bill 22, including:

- Involuntary detention, including use of restraints, of youth for up to 7 days following an overdose, without the consent of a youth or a parent/guardian.
- Lack of comprehensive and meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples, contrary to the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- Harmful impacts of coercive healthcare on youth who use substances during an opioid overdose health crisis.
- Establishing a comprehensive voluntary system of substance use services throughout BC.

WHEN: Monday July 27, 2020 at 10 a.m. PST

WHERE: Via Zoom [here](#), media registration opens at 9:45 am.
Simultaneous livestream through UBCIC Facebook page.

SPEAKERS:

- **Jennifer Charlesworth:** BC's Representative for Children and Youth
- **Kukpi7 Judy Wilson:** Union of BC Indian Chiefs
- **Kali Sedgemore:** member of 'Namgis First Nation, OPS youth peer and outreach worker
- **Hawkfeather Peterson:** BC/Yukon Association of Drug War Survivors
- **Garth Mullins:** Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, Crackdown Podcast
- **Laura Johnston:** Health Justice
- **Meghan McDermott:** BC Civil Liberties Association

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