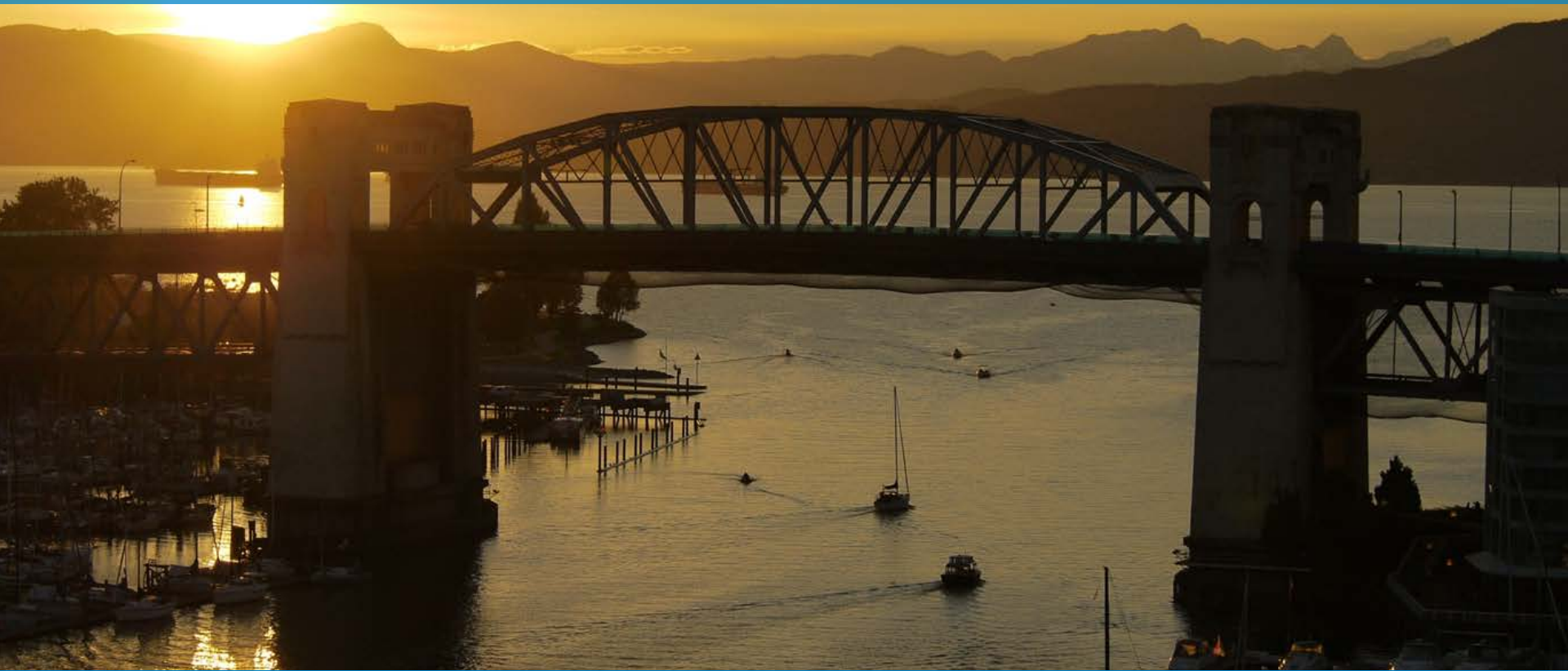


# Opioid Overdose Crisis Update

An Overview of Measures Undertaken  
and Recommended Next Steps



# Council Approved Recommendation and Motion

## December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016:

- Approved 3.9% property tax increase in 2017 budget; 0.5% allocated to contingency reserve for City's response to overdose crisis
- Expenditures subject to Council approval

## December 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 Motion:

- Immediate Budget Measure: Council directed City Manager to expend necessary funding of up to \$300,000 from existing budget
- Request that Federal and Provincial Governments match City of Vancouver expenditures in relation to the overdose crisis



# Report Recommendations

---

A. That Council receive for information this update regarding expenditures incurred in 2016 in response to the ongoing opioid crisis

B. That Council approve the initial set of 2017 investments recommended in the staff report from the contingency reserve set aside in the 2017 capital and operating budget for this purpose

# Measures Implemented in 2016

**Supported New Supervised Injection Sites:** VCH Applications to Federal Government

**Health & Community Partnerships:**  
Mobile Medical Unit - \$55,000

5 new overdose response sites modelled after community led response

**Added First Responder Resources:**  
Additional medic unit deployed to Fire Hall #2 - \$43,000

**Provided Naloxone Training :** 300 residents, drug user groups & health partners participated

**Hosted Mayor's Forum:** 200+ residents and partners heard about the impact of the crisis & identified key issues - \$9,000



VCH-operated Mobile Medical Unit

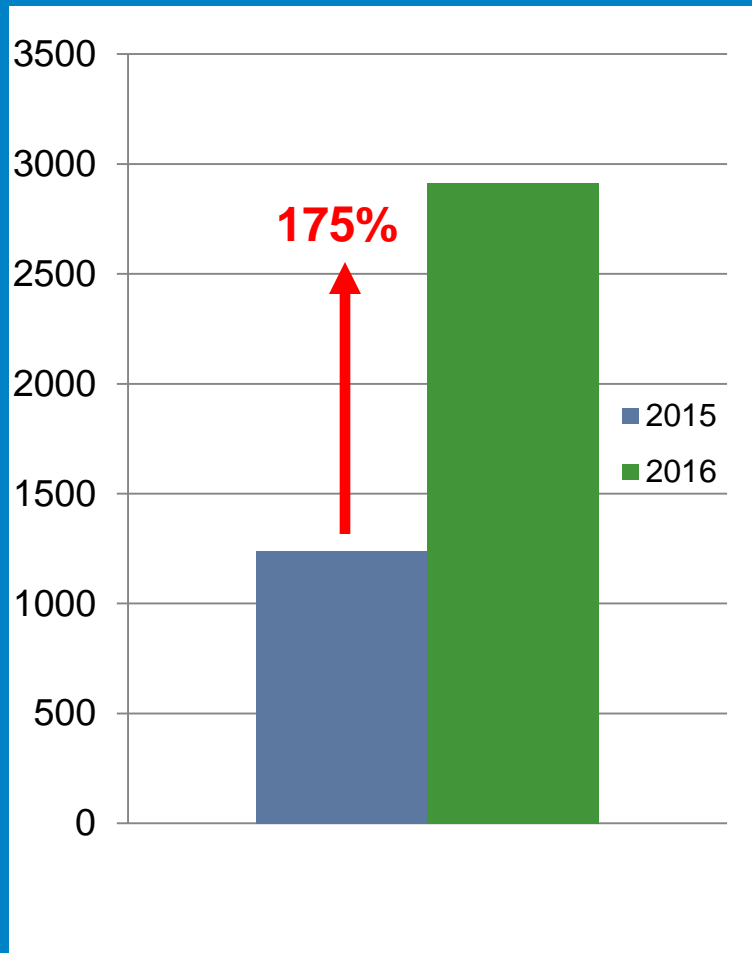


Source: Vancouver Coastal Health

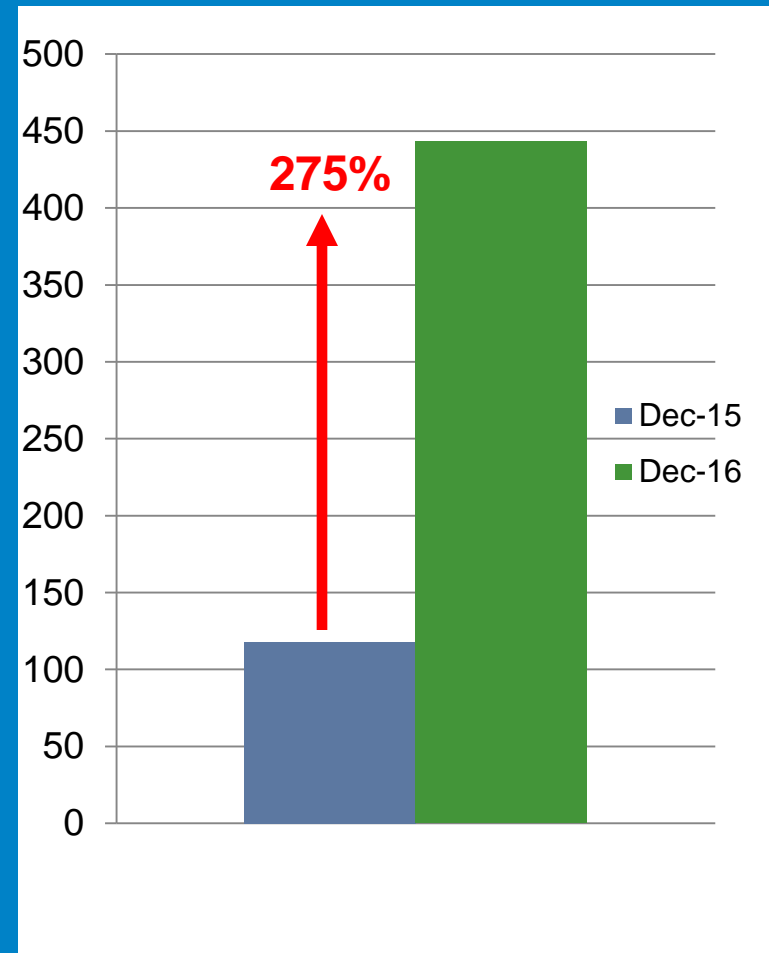
Overdose prevention  
62 East Hastings

# Vancouver Fire & Rescue – Firehall 2 (DTES) Overdose Response

## OD Incidents per Year



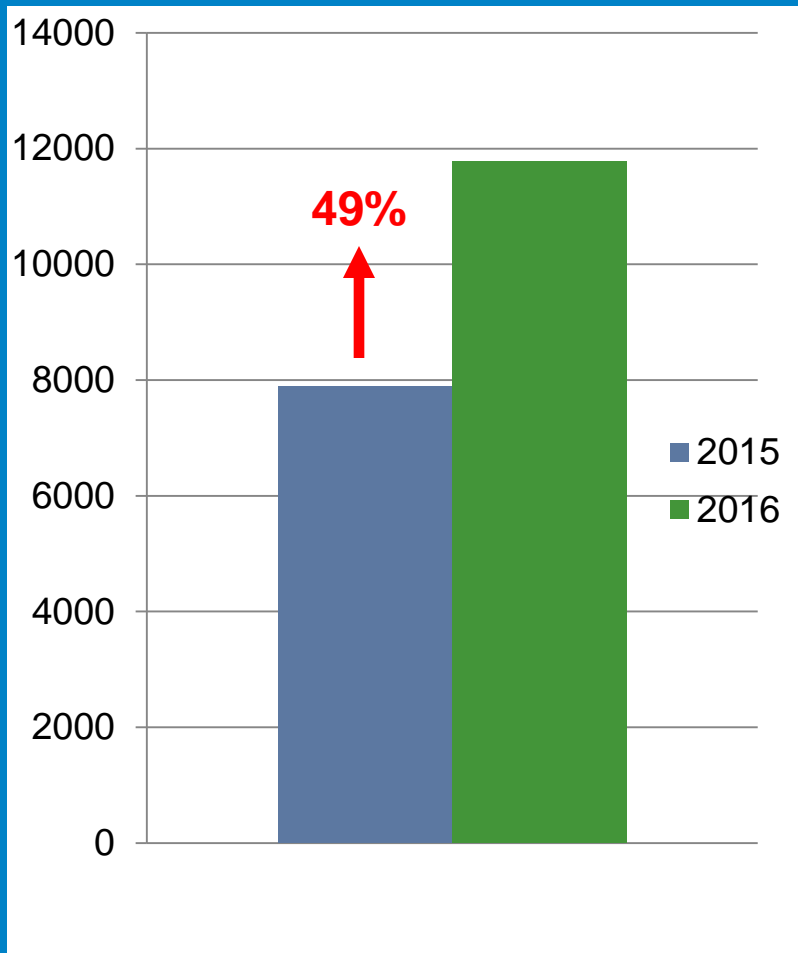
## December OD Incidents



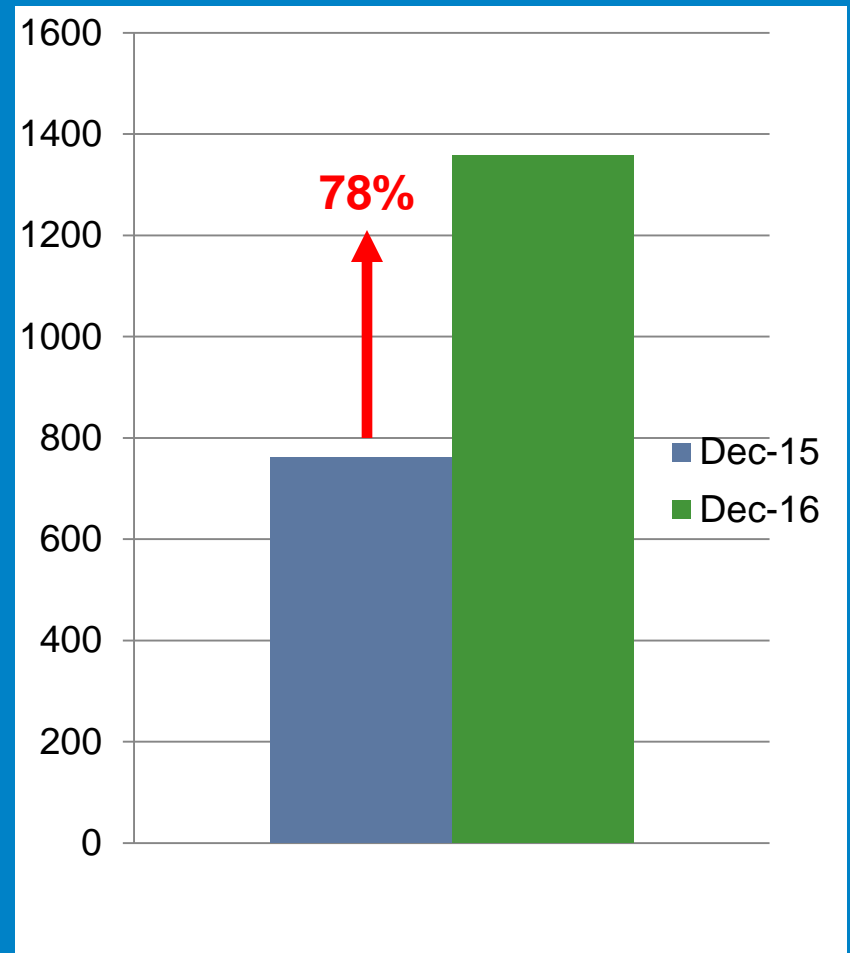
# Vancouver Fire & Rescue – Firehall 2 (DTES)

## Total Incidents

### Total Incidents per Year



### December Incidents



# City Staff Recommended investments:

---

Based on:

- Practical & immediate measures to save lives, mitigate the impact of the crisis and provide more 'upstream' interventions
- High levels of engagement: people with lived experience, residents, non profit & City staff, and business community
- Building resiliency and capacity
- Best practice & evidence based research
- Value for money & leverage

# Recommended Investments

1. Continue VFRS deployment of 3 person medic unit (Medic 23), subject to demand at Fire Hall #2
  - \$1.9 M operating costs





# Recommended investments

---

## 2. Establish new Community Policing Centre (CPC) in Strathcona and enhance funding for existing CPCs



### New Strathcona CPC:

- \$100,000 (one time set up)
- \$108,200 (ongoing operating)

### Other 11 CPCs:

- \$220,000 (ongoing operating)

# Recommended investments

---

## 3. Expand naloxone administration training for City staff

- Cost of supplies and staff time up to \$10K
- Collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services



# Additional Recommendations under Consideration for 2017

---

1. Overdose prevention in private and publicly funded SROs
2. Public education, awareness and prevention
3. Support for Aboriginal healing and wellness
4. Needle management
5. Low barrier employment opportunities to support recovery



# Recommended Actions to Other Levels of Government

---

## 1. Fill Health Service Gaps:

- Provide Treatment on Demand: Beds and Substitution Therapy with psychosocial supports
- Enable a robust national framework for Opioid Substitution Therapy, including injectable therapies
- Implement “Housing First” model with supports

## 2. Get Better Information:

- Make data available to agencies responsible for the response, including municipal governments, to support coordination efforts
- Analyze all overdose data from 2016 to identify critical risk factors and share publicly.

# Recommended Actions to Other Levels of Government

---

## 3. Form partnerships with all orders of government

- Federal Government needs to acknowledge scale of crisis
- Provinces and territories need to adequately resource addictions and mental health services
- Replace Bill C2
- Work proactively and collaboratively with local government, First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Communities

# Recommended Actions to Other Levels of Government

---

## 4. Get at Root Causes

- Invest in anti stigma and public awareness efforts
- Support trauma informed and recovery based interventions, including First Nations and urban Aboriginal healing and wellness
- Implement National Poverty Reduction & Housing Strategies
- Increase supports to children and youth in early years of development
- Shift from prohibition towards a regulatory approach to drug policy in Canada

# Addressing illicit drug use requires a “Culture Shift”

---

*“The crisis unfolding in B.C. and elsewhere in Canada should also spark debate about how drugs are regulated in the country”.*

***“Such dialogue may not be easy, but it is necessary and it will be life-saving.”***

Dr. Perry Kendall  
BC Medical Health Officer

# Acknowledgement to:

---

- Those whose lives have been lost as well as their families and loved ones
- Volunteer efforts of DTES residents – Area 62, VANDU, WAHRS, and many, many others
- Efforts of our partners - VCH, BCEHS, BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Housing, NGOs, Business community
- City Staff Across Departments



---

# Questions