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*On behalf of Shujian Liu, Coordinator, Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy*

Dear Municipal Representatives,

I hope this email finds you well. On behalf of the Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS), I am writing to request your support in proclaiming **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**, as **International Overdose Awareness Day** in your municipality.

International Overdose Awareness Day is recognized worldwide as the largest annual campaign aimed at ending overdose, honoring the lives lost to substance use without stigma, and acknowledging the profound grief experienced by family and friends left behind. This significant event, which takes place on August 31<sup>st</sup> each year, serves as a platform to raise awareness about the tragic consequences of drug overdose deaths and emphasizes the preventability of such incidents.

As drug-related deaths keep rising in North-eastern Ontario, 6 tragic deaths have occurred in the Timiskaming Health Unit region only in the first half of 2023. Our drug strategy TDAS and member organizations are actively participating in this global campaign to promote local events and activities scheduled to take place in Timiskaming. By proclaiming International Overdose Awareness Day in your municipality, we can demonstrate our commitment to addressing this critical issue and raising public consciousness regarding drug overdose prevention and support for affected individuals and communities.

To assist you in considering this request, we have attached a template that outlines the focus of this campaign and information relevant to our region. It provides an overview of the impact of drug overdoses on our community and highlights the urgency of taking action to combat this public health crisis.

Your proclamation of International Overdose Awareness Day would not only provide solace and support to those who have lost loved ones to substance use but also amplify the message that we, as a community, are committed to preventing future tragedies and recognizing the people who went unseen. By working together, we can foster a culture of compassion, education, and support, ultimately saving lives and reducing the harm associated with drug misuse.

We sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter and the potential impact your proclamation could have on our community. Thank you for considering our request.

Kind regards,

**Shujian Liu**

*Rachelle Côté*

Executive Assistant

Secretary to the Board of Health

**Timiskaming Health Unit**

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