

July 25th, 2024

Sent on behalf of the Fraser Health Integrated Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Services

NEW Amendment to Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, effective January 31, 2023, via Health Canada.

- A three-year exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to decriminalize people who use drugs, which came into effect January 31, 2023 via Health Canada. Health Canada granted the province of B.C an amendment to the exemption in May 2024.
- Under the exemption, possessing small amounts of certain illicit drugs for personal use (up to 2.5 grams cumulative of opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine, & MDMA (ecstasy)) in specific locations is allowed.
- In response, Fraser Health published the [Possession of Exempted Substances for Personal Use Policy](#) to guide all staff including medical staff caring for adults who use exempted substances. In addition, Fraser Health has also published [Harm Reduction for Psychoactive Substance Use Policy](#) which guides staff to adopt an evidence-based harm reduction approach when caring for adults and youth who use psychoactive substances.
- A LTC-AL Shared Work Team, in collaboration with Opioid Prevention & Response Clinical Nurse Specialist, are planning a fall webinar to share information and answer questions about supporting people we serve who use exempted substances.
- We invite you to review and provide feedback on the attached LTC-AL Q&A using this: [survey link](#).
- Please complete survey by **August 30, 2024**. Your feedback will assist in preparing for the fall webinar.
- For affiliated care communities who have access to UCI you can use the links embedded in the survey to retrieve the documents below.
 - Possession of Exempted Substances Policy;
 - Harm Reduction For Psychoactive Substance Use Policy and;
 - Possession of Exempted Substances Decision Support Tool.

REMINDER LTC Resident Satisfaction Surveys

- The LTC Resident Satisfaction Survey is continuing for Quarter 2 (July – Sept) for LTC care communities in Fraser Health.
- Approximately 20 care communities will be surveyed this quarter in July/Aug and every care community will be surveyed once per year.
- The team will send you posters in advance. Please ensure that the posters you receive are advertised and posted in common areas. Also please keep the posters for future use.
- If you have any questions, please contact Raymi Komal, Project Leader, LTC/AL: raymi.komal@fraserhealth.ca