

## Rezoning rationale – 437 Wesley Street

The applicant is seeking a zoning amendment of the subject property to allow for a “Supervised Consumption Service” (SCS) as a site specific permitted use at 437 Wesley Street. The site currently hosts a temporary “Overdose Prevention Service” (OPS) which was established arising from a Public Health Emergency declared by the BC Chief Medical Health Officer in April of 2016 and enabled by Ministerial Order M488, issued 2016-DEC-09. Both the OPS and the SCS are services that monitor persons who are risk of opioid overdose and provide rapid intervention as and when necessary.

The Federal government permits the establishment of Safe Consumption Services by offering an exemption to the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)*. Vancouver Island Health Authority, operating as Island Health, is making application to the Federal Government for an exemption to the “CDSA S 52” so as to conform with the legal requirements for the provision of a permanent Supervised Consumption Service at the subject property. The application for an exemption will run parallel to the zoning amendment process for the subject property.

Similar sites are being established in other BC communities; the Nanaimo overdose prevention site and 18 sites in other communities around the province are one aspect of the provincial government’s response to the increasing number of fatalities associated with illicit substance mis-use in communities like Nanaimo. According to the BC Coroners Service between January 2016 and February 2017 there have been 36 fatalities associated with illicit drug overdoses in Nanaimo, a significant increase over previous years. This increase is in part due to the presence of Fentanyl and other opiate analogs that are becoming increasingly prevalent in heroin and other injectable drugs used by intravenous drug users.

The *Supervised Consumption Services* will be funded by Island Health and will be delivered at the site by Canadian Mental Health Association – Mid Island branch. The subject property is owned by the City of Nanaimo and leased to BC Housing, BC Housing owns the building and has entered into an operating agreement with CMHA – Mid Island to manage the 36 units of supported housing that constitute the primary use on the site. CMHA – Mid Island will enter into a contractual arrangement with Island Health to deliver the Supervised Consumption Service in a manner similar to the provision of Overdose Prevention Services currently offered at 437 Wesley Street.