



FOR RELEASE  
January 24, 2022

## **Chief Coroner investigating recent death, confirms previous three overdose deaths due to illicit drugs**

Yukon's Chief Coroner is investigating a death that occurred in Carcross this past weekend. Preliminary evidence suggests the death may be related to illicit drugs.

The Yukon Coroner's Service has received preliminary toxicology results for the three deaths that occurred between January 15 and 19, 2022, and can now confirm that the deaths are related to illicit drug use. Toxicology confirms that fentanyl was present in all three cases; and cocaine and benzodiazepines ("benzos") were also presents in two of the cases.

This means that eight individuals, pending toxicology on one case, have tragically died between January 3 and 23, 2022, due to illicit drugs use.

As Chief Coroner, and as a member of our Yukon community, I wish to express my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who have died. The weight of grief before us is truly heartbreaking. I ask everyone to be compassionate as we mourn these tragic deaths and work together to create the change that is needed to alter our course.

I am urging anyone who is using drugs or needs support with substance use to access the available resources below and please do not use alone.

**Chief Coroner Heather Jones**

### **Available support**

The **National Overdose Response Service (NORS) at 1-888-688-6677** where a volunteer without judgment will stay on the line while you are using and make sure you are okay. This is a confidential service that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The **Yukon's supervised consumption site** provides a space for people to use substances under trained medical supervision. On site, clients can access a range of harm reduction and social services including drug testing, harm reduction counselling, access to naloxone, drug use equipment exchange, medical care from a trained professional, counselling treatment services

and training in safer use practices. Clients can also receive referrals to social, medical and mental wellness and substance use supports.

**Treatment services** are available at 867-668-2552 or at the **Referred Care Clinic** at 210 Elliott Street in Whitehorse.

Yukoners who have questions on opioid, naloxone and training, as well as harm reduction information, can contact the **Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator at the Referred Care Clinic** by phone at 867-332-0722 or by email at [OOPC@yukon.ca](mailto:OOPC@yukon.ca).

Yukoners who are interested in changing or managing their opioid drug use with the help of medical intervention, the opioid treatment services clinic can help call to book an appointment at 867-668-2552. The medical team at the **Opioid Treatment Services Program** can assess, prescribe and support clients who may benefit from a safer supply of opioids.

Additional supports are available by contacting **Mental Wellness and Substance Use** at 867-456-3838 or at **Withdrawal Management** at 867-667-8473. Withdrawal Management is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For anyone grieving a loss, support is available through Hospice Yukon at 867-667-7429 or at 409 Jarvis Street in Whitehorse.

Rapid Access Counselling is available for people with mental wellness and substance use issues by calling 867-456-3838.

## Contact

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