



April 14, 2016

To: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health
All BC Medical Health Officers
Dr. Evan Adams, Chief Medical Officer, First Nations Health Authority
Dr. Bonnie Henry, Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Mark Tyndall, Executive Medical Director, BC Centre for Disease Control and
Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Stephen Brown, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Arlene Paton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division
Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner, BC Coroners Service
Linda Lupini, Executive Vice President PHSA and BC Emergency Health Services

**Re: Provincial Health Officer Notice - *Public Health Act* S.B.C. 2008,
Chapter 28, section 52 (2)**

Further to the provisions of section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act*, I hereby provide notice that the apparent increasing availability of highly toxic, illegally produced opioid fentanyl analogues and resulting increases in people overdosing and mortality associated with the use of these substances, alone or with other illegally and legally produced opioids and other drugs, in the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event as defined under section 51 of the *Public Health Act*.

On the basis of the information that has been reported to me in my capacity as the Provincial Health Officer, I reasonably believe that criteria (a) and (b) listed in *Public Health Act* section 52 (2) applies:

- (a) the regional event could have a serious impact on public health;
- (b) the regional event is unusual or unexpected;

The purpose of providing this notice is to enable improved surveillance of and response to this overdose situation as may be supported through application of *Public Health Act* sections 53 (a), 54 (1) (k) and 57.

While this notice allows medical health officers to exercise the powers granted to them under all of Part 5 of the *Public Health Act*, at this time these additional powers should only be exercised in relation to the purpose of this notice with respect to improving surveillance of and response to the situation mentioned above.

Signed this, the 14th day of April 2016, in the City of Victoria in the Province of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

P.R.W. Kendall
OBC, MBBS, MHSc, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer