

From: [Cidnee Elise J.](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Fwd: PROPOSAL for the community to honour those who have passed away from an opioid overdose.
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 6:43:48 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cidnee Elise J." <[FIPPA s. 22\(1\)](#)>
Date: June 10, 2025 at 10:51:58 PDT
To: rob.douglas@northcowichan.ca
Subject: PROPOSAL for the community to honour those who have passed away from an opioid overdose.

Cidnee Elise Johnson

[FIPPA s. 22\(1\)](#)

Duncan, BC [FIPPA s. 22\(1\)](#)

Email: [FIPPA s. 22\(1\)](#)

Home Phone #: [FIPPA s. 22\(1\)](#)

June 10, 2025

Mayor Rob Douglas

City Hall

6434 Ford Road

Duncan, BC V9L 6C5

Dear Mayor Robertson:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share an idea that I believe could offer a deeply meaningful way to honour the many lives our community has lost to drug overdoses—especially those taken by the ongoing fentanyl crisis.

Like many others in Duncan and North Cowichan, and across Canada, I have felt the profound pain of losing a loved one to substance use. My beloved son Jeremy Shayne Hales died August 5, 2024. The shared grief carried at the loss of a family member, friends, and the broader community is immeasurable, and I believe we need more public, compassionate spaces where this grief can be acknowledged, shared, and honoured.

I was recently inspired by a program from Japan, in which communities planted a large, graceful tree—often a willow or similarly shaped species—with long, hanging branches. People were invited to write messages to loved ones who had passed away and hang their notes from the branches. It was moving to see how such a simple gesture could create a place of peace, reflection, and shared remembrance.

I would love to see something similar in Duncan/North Cowichan. A dedicated memorial tree planted in a thoughtful, accessible location, where families and friends can leave messages, tributes, or symbols of remembrance for those we've lost to overdose. Such a space could also serve as a visible reminder of the human cost of this crisis and the urgent need for compassion, connection, and healing in our community.

Of course, this is only one idea. I would be very open to hearing whether you or members of Council may have other suggestions or insights for how Duncan/North Cowichan might create a public space of remembrance. I know that under your leadership, Cowichan Valley has made heartfelt efforts to address the opioid crisis, and I believe this could be a meaningful next step in

honouring those who are no longer with us and supporting those who remain.

Thank you very much for your time, your compassion, and your continued commitment to the people of the Cowichan Valley. I would be honoured to speak further about this idea if you are open to it. I have also sent an email to Michelle Staples.

Warm regards,

Cidnee Elise Johnson

Sent from my iPhone # [REDACTED]. I would appreciate it if you would leave a message. Alternatively, my home phone number is [REDACTED]. My email address is [REDACTED]. Much appreciated.

Cidnee Elise Johnson

