

# **OVERDOSE IS EVERYWHERE. THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA REPORTED 7,560 APPARENT OPIOID TOXICITY DEATHS IN 2021. THAT'S APPROXIMATELY 21 DEATHS PER DAY.**

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_ ,

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ community. I am writing to you today because I strongly believe that more needs to be done to address overdose within our community.

Overdose is everywhere. The Public Health Agency of Canada reported 7,560 apparent opioid toxicity deaths in 2021. That's approximately 21 deaths per day.

It's not in their job description, but ordinary community members – waiters, librarians, cab drivers, friends and teachers – are having to act as frontline responders due to government inaction. It is unacceptable that we rely on these unexpected responders to prevent, recognize and respond to this growing epidemic.

There is strong evidence to support practical solutions such as providing free access to naloxone, fentanyl testing kits and opioid substitution treatment.

I would like to know how you plan to address this issue in our community.

Sincerely,

MS/MRS/MR/MX \_\_\_\_\_