PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

OPIOIDS: DECLARE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Whereas:

- The overdose crisis in Canada is a public health emergency, as has already been declared by British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer and several municipalities across Canada;
- More than 26,690 individuals have died of opioid-related deaths and there have been 29,228 opioid-related poisoning hospitalizations in Canada since 2016;
- There is disproportionate representation of Indigenous people affected by the overdose crisis; and,
- The Canadian Public Health Association, the Global Commission on Drug Policy, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations, have recommended drug decriminalization,

We, the undersigned citizens and residents of Canada call upon the House of Commons in Parliament assembled to:

- Declare a public health emergency due to overdose deaths in Canada;
- Reframe the overdose crisis in Canada as a health issue rather than a criminal issue;
- Take a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to the overdose crisis, by addressing issues of addiction, poverty, housing, health care, racial discrimination, and economic inequality and instability;
- Listen to and act on recommendations made by social workers, front-line workers, nurses, doctors, drug users, and individuals directly involved in the drug-using community; and,
- Decriminalize drugs in Canada

Signature **(Sign your own name. Do not print.)**	**Address** **(Full home address, or city and province, or province and postal code.)**

Please complete and send, postage free, to Mike Morrice, M.P., House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

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Guidelines

1. Petitions must not be altered or have any text added.

2. Petitions can be either double-sided or have a blank back page.

3. A petition should contain signatures of residents of Canada only.

4. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition.

5. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition.

6. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself.

7. A petition must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it.

8. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy. Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

9. Paper petitions need a minimum of 25 signatures to be certified by the clerk

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