



22-02-23 Dying for Action

For immediate release:

Too many Albertans are Dying for Access.

**Albertans who use drugs and their allies will hold Dying for Access events in Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge on February 23, 2022.**

**Calgary: City Hall Plaza, 12:00 PM**

**Edmonton: Legislature Grounds, 12:00 PM**

**Lethbridge: Galt Gardens, 7:00 PM**

Drug poisoning kills more Albertans aged 25 to 39 than any other cause of death.

The Alberta Government's latest barriers to supervised consumption services will drive people away from these life-saving services and compound the crisis.

However, even the frequent Alberta Government proclamations of new detox treatment and addiction recovery services have failed to materialize, while existing services have failed to adjust to the changing realities of the crisis. Families wait weeks and months for loved ones to access services that often do not fit their needs.

Every barrier to accessing evidence-based services is an additional risk factor for death.

While the Alberta Government endorses anti-scientific protests to burnish its image with the fringe of its voting base, those of us speaking out against Alberta Government actions that amplify drug poisoning harms are labeled as radicals.

Alberta Government misinformation around safer supply continues to harm Albertans who use substances and create chaos in decision-making. The crisis is driven not by pharmaceuticals but by volatile contamination in the drug supply: let's stop punishing people for using drugs and support them instead by fixing the supply.

**To address the ongoing crisis, we call on the Government of Alberta to:**

- **Expand supervised consumption services and reopen closed sites**
- **Scrap the harmful provincial regulations for consumption services**
- **Provide access to safe regulated substances to replace toxic street drugs**
- **Offer rapid, barrier-free access to medical detox and evidence-based treatment.**

Drug poisoning kills more Albertans aged 25 to 39 than any other cause of death, and the Alberta Government's barriers to evidence-based services such as supervised consumption, safer supply and patient-centred treatment will keep it that way.

Signed

Alberta Alliance Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly (AAWEAR)

Alberta Public Health Association (APHA)

Boots on Ground

Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs (CAPUD)

Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

Calgary Chapter – Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy (CSSDP)

EACH+EVERY: Businesses for Harm Reduction

Friends of Medicare

Moms Stop the Harm (MSTH)

Street Cats

StreetCCRED

Water Warriors YEG

Workers for Ethical Substance Use Policy (WESUP)

Alberta Nurses Coalition for Harm Reduction (ANCHR)