

ATTENTION 'YALIS RESIDENTS

On behalf of the 'Nāmgis Council, I am writing to all residents of Cormorant Island regarding the serious illicit drug issue affecting our community. Many of us have experienced the loss of loved ones and have witnessed the ongoing harm that substance use can cause to individuals, families, and relationships.

At present, efforts are underway to support those affected by substance use disorder. Available resources include the Harm Reduction Team, voluntary support groups at the Sunshine Room, information on counselling services and crisis lines, mental health services, and treatment programs. These resources can be accessed through the 'Nāmgis Health Centre, located at 48 School Road, and Cormorant Island Hospital, located at 49 School Road. We encourage everyone to become familiar with these supports and to share this information with loved ones who may benefit from it.

Several prevention initiatives and activities are also underway to help build resilience and foster pride in our culture. These efforts strengthen community ties, support individual self-worth, encourage a sense of belonging, and help develop the skills needed to make healthy life choices. Your support and participation in these activities are an important contribution to the wellbeing and strength of our community.

We want residents to know that the 'Nāmgis Council, the Village of Alert Bay, and the Whe-La-La-U Area Council are working with the RCMP to address illegal substance trafficking and related activities that target vulnerable members of our community. We recognize that some individuals involved in the illicit drug trade may be members of our community, and we understand that cooperating with law enforcement can be difficult. However, each of us has a role to play in helping to protect the wellbeing and safety of our community.

If you know of, or observe, an illegal drug transaction, you may contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 to provide information anonymously in support of ongoing investigations.

Lives are at stake, and inaction is not an option.

The 'Nāmgis Council is exploring all legal avenues to address the presence of individuals convicted of trafficking illegal substances within our community. Additional information will be shared as these plans continue to develop.

Gilakas'la,



Don Svanvik - Homiskanis

Elected Chief of 'Nāmgis First Nation