



## Health Matters Newsletter July 7, 2017

### Today's Health Matters Includes:

- Meeting Schedule
- Community Meetings and Events
- Local Data- Island Health Releases Local Health Area Profiles
- New Release for Needle Recovery in Cowichan Valley
- Collective Impact -Tamarack Resources
- Cowichan Valley Receives Clean Air Champion Recognition



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### Our Cowichan- Network Member Meetings-

- ✓ **Next Admin Committee Meeting- To be determined, 4:30-6:30**
- ✓ **Next Our Cowichan Network Meeting at July 13 Ramada Silver Bridge.** Light dinner at 5:15 pm  
Meeting starts at 5:45 pm.

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### Community Events- Meetings

- **Community Response Team Meeting** July 20, 9 am-11am Meeting Room 213 at the CVRD
- **EPIC-Community Steering Committee** July 20, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Ladysmith Community Health Centre Lower meeting room (Then moving to Duncan 2:00 pm-4:00 pm) Ts'i'ts'uwatul 'Lelum 5755 Allenby Road- Duncan, BC
- **Literacy Now Cowichan AGM and Open House-** July 13 at Literacy Now Cowichan Office 213 B Station Street 4 pm-5:30 pm Refreshments following. RSVP 250-597-1776
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## 1. Local Data and or Research- New LHA data Available for Cowichan, Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan go to [Local Health Area Profiles - Island Health](#)

[www.viha.ca/mho/stats/lha\\_profiles.htm](http://www.viha.ca/mho/stats/lha_profiles.htm)

**Island Health** has fourteen local **health** areas (LHAs) – these are geographic areas defined by the Ministry of **Health**. The **LHA** Profiles provide information on things

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[viha.ca/news](http://viha.ca/news)



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 5, 2017

### **Needle Recovery in the Cowichan Valley**

DUNCAN – Island Health and community partners in the Cowichan Valley have increased safety efforts in response to concerns about the number of needles being improperly discarded throughout the community.

“Increases in overdose and overdose fatalities in the Cowichan area are a challenge caused by new illicit drugs including the use of fentanyl, and this has also led to an increase in discarded needles” says Medical Health Officer, Dr. Paul Hasselback. “We acknowledge the concerns of Cowichan Valley residents about discarded needles and are working with Cowichan Valley partners in increasing needle recovery efforts to keep our public spaces clean and safe, particularly where children and families visit.”

The needle recovery program is one step in responding to the overdose crisis in the Cowichan Valley. Community concerns about discarded needles need to be addressed as overdose prevention services are established. Between January 1, 2016 and May 31, 2017, 254 people died from suspected opioid drug overdoses in the Island Health region. At least 23 of these people were from the Cowichan Valley. These tragic events highlight the need for a broad response to the current health crisis through education, prevention, outreach, harm reduction, naloxone kits, counselling, substance use treatment and supports, and access to mental health and substance use services. A proposed Overdose Prevention Services unit in the Cowichan Valley continues to be explored – including alternative service models and locations. Island Health remains committed to establishing Overdose Prevention Services as these have proven to save lives.

Needles and other harm reduction supplies, such as syringes and glass pipes, are distributed as part of a province-wide program that has been in place for over 15 years. The program provides needles to people who use drugs to reduce the transmission of blood-borne diseases through needle-sharing. It's also an important opportunity to talk to clients and support their awareness of health services, including treatment options.

**New needle sweep service:**

- The Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), in partnership with Island Health, will collect sharps seven days per week for an initial period of six months.
- The hours of the new service and areas where the sweeps will occur will be determined in partnership with the CMHA and community stakeholders.

The new needle sweep service is in addition to sweeps regularly carried out in the vicinity of the Warmland House and by NARSF (formerly the Nanaimo and Area Resource Services for Families) as part of their weekly outreach service to Cowichan and Cowichan Lake.

**Needle collection:**

- Island Health has provided North Cowichan and Duncan with eight needle drop boxes that have been installed where drug use is most prevalent.
- Needles can be returned to numerous locations in the Cowichan area, including Margaret Moss, Warmland House, Duncan Mental Health and the Cowichan Valley Food Bank.

View our map of needle collection locations in the Cowichan Valley:

<http://bit.ly/NeedleDisposalCV>

**Report a discarded needle:**

You can report discarded needles by calling 250-732-3330 or emailing [dave.street@cmha.bc.ca](mailto:dave.street@cmha.bc.ca). Please provide a detailed description of the location (or GPS coordinates) and the number of needles found. Needle collection will be prioritized based on volumes and location.

Visit any Island Health location or our website at [www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca) for information on how to dispose of needles safely and what to do if you are pricked by a discarded needle.

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**South Island media inquiries:**

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## Collective Impact- Tamarack

In this issue:

- [Developing Collective Impact Strategies](#)
- [Fostering Connection, Sharing Stories, and Creating Community](#)
- [Civic Leadership and Community-Based Leadership Programs](#)

[Engaging Change through Whole-self and Whole-systems Exploration](#)

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## News Worth Celebrating!



**The Cowichan Valley has been recognized as Clean Air Champions for 2017. Please see page 8 in BC Lung's 2017 State of the Air below.**

Our Cowichan and many community partners have been working together over the past few years to create a regional air shed strategy and Round Table. Our Cowichan is honoured to be the stewards of the Round Table that is having an impact and is being recognized provincially!

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE 2017 STATE OF THE AIR REPORT](#)

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