



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Norm Letnick**  
MLA Kelowna-Lake Country  
**Renee Merrifield**  
MLA Kelowna-Mission  
**Ben Stewart**  
MLA Kelowna West

April 21, 2023

Premier David Eby  
West Annex  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC  
V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Eby,

As Members of the Legislative Assembly representing the residents of Kelowna, we are writing to express our support for the City of Kelowna Mayor, Tom Dyas', request to exclude parks from the drug decriminalization three-year pilot program that your government implemented earlier this year.

Kelowna boasts many parks within its boundaries that offer beautiful beaches, baseball fields, volleyball courts, playground structures, and more. These parks provide countless hours of safe fun for families, young and old, as well as for visiting tourists. However, your government's decriminalization policy has put them at risk.

That your government plunged B.C. into decriminalization without the proper guardrails in place does not absolve your government of its responsibility to regulate the public consumption of illicit drugs in our public spaces, including parks, playgrounds and beaches. Recognizing this, and to address the gaps that exist today, we urge you to support Mayor Dyas and other mayors who have made similar appeals to regulate the public consumption of illicit drugs through local bylaws.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response which we will share with the Mayor and Council of Kelowna.

Sincerely,

Norm Letnick, MLA  
Kelowna - Lake Country

Renee Merrifield, MLA  
Kelowna - Mission

Ben Stewart, MLA  
Kelowna West

CC: Minister Adrian Dix, Room 337  
Minister Mike Farnworth, Room 128  
Minister Jennifer Whiteside, Room 306