



February 16, 2022.

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Documentary Proposal: *Finding a Way Forward – A City in Crisis*

Over the past years, we have seen families and our communities suffer and mourn the devastating loss of loved ones – sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, friends and neighbours – due to the opioid crisis. Meanwhile, our communities and society struggle with the causes and approaches to solving the complex and inter-related aspects of the crisis: drug addiction, poverty, lack of housing, mental illness, crime and justice, health policy, and socio-economic conditions, which impacts our communities and contribute to a sense of insecurity and division.

I am a lawyer and former judge with nearly 40 years experience in criminal justice on the frontlines of our courts of justice. I have seen it from different perspectives. I've prosecuted, defended, adjudicated and sentenced offenders. I've seen the fear, heard the arguments, witnessed the tears and sorrows, the pain, and the individual successes and failures. I've had clients and persons I've dealt with die from substance abuse, suicide or drug related violence. I consider it a humble responsibility to have the privilege to know, hear and witness the humanity of each and every person.

I can say unequivocally, the so-called "war on drugs" has been a failure. Our city, province and country have seen the problem become worse with street entrenchment, illicit drug trade, addiction and overdoses, harm and destruction of lives and frustration and polarization of citizenry.

I support the *Finding a Way Forward* documentary project as an integral way of bringing together a broad range of voices and lived experience, within our city and region, to raise awareness, engage varying perspectives and interests, working together in a genuine grassroots and non-partisan way to inform solutions, educate and build a sense of solidarity and unity – thereby focus a constructive and viable approach to change in our city and neighbourhoods for a safer, healthier and humane future – together.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B.W. Sundhu".

Bill Sundhu.