

Letter of Support

November 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Peter Cameron-Inglis and Mastermind Studios' involvement in a documentary series regarding substance issues and harm reduction in Kamloops. Kamloops has been particularly hit by the opiate poisoning crisis, with deaths far higher than expected in a community of its size.

I have lived in Kamloops for most of my life. I grew up in the city and have returned to raise my family here as I practice emergency medicine. I have been involved with harm reduction initiatives within the city for many years. I was the physician lead for the first Take Home Naloxone distribution project from a Canadian emergency department. This involved distributing naloxone, an opiate antidote, to individuals who had suffered an opiate overdose. This was a pilot project that has now become standard through the province.

I have worked with Peter Cameron-Inglis in the past on projects involving using cannabis for harm reduction and also with my son, who has been a spokesperson for nephrotic syndrome.

Peter Cameron- Inglis and Mastermind studios have proposed a documentary series examining the issues that face Kamloops at this critical juncture. As this is a very large and multifaceted problem it seems that a documentary series would be an effective way to explore challenges facing the different groups in our community. The first thing that anyone will admit about the current challenges is that there is no one solution and the answers may come from surprising areas, including the use of psychedelics to treat addiction.

There are so many voices to be heard from in this crisis; from drug users, their families and survivors, the police, physicians and politicians; each with a voice and a way forward. By spending time on each of these people and each of these solutions, we can hope to increase the work being done in this area to decrease the death toll. Reading Peter's plans for a documentary series makes me feel that this type of exposure could be helpful in changing minds and moving forwards.

Yours,

Ian Mitchell, MD, FRCP

Staff Physician, Royal Inland Hospital, Kamloops

Clinical Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of British Columbia.