

Good day,

I am writing in support of the Finding A Way Forward project that Dawn Koch from AIMCanada Mentorship Society and Peter Cameron-Inglis from Mastermind Studios are developing about a societal reality that, despite increasing deaths, persists and carries a cruel stigma.

As a reporter, the last few years of my career before retirement were basically focused on death from the toxic drug supply plaguing our province. There are too many names and faces in my memory — dads, kids, teachers, homeless, friends.

That is why this project is so important because we need to put faces on these deaths. We need to confront the stigma of “just a junkie” and we need to bring society together to end this crisis.

Dawn, through the organization she founded, AIMCanada Mentorship Society has been an advocate of vulnerable populations in our community for many years, especially students, who often fall through the cracks unnoticed and become prey to this insipid calamity.

Peter and his team at Mastermind Studios have done remarkable work in the past on social issues. He knows how to find the stories and then let them be told in an impactful way. I hope you will help them do that.

Should you require additional information, I can be contacted at dbass55@shaw.ca 250-572-4620.

Dale Bass