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**From:** Debra Parkes S22(1) Personal Information  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 4:08 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Councillors  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Temporary Use Permit (TUP00038) for 40 Begbie Street

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Dear Mayor and Councillors:

I write as a New Westminster resident to voice my support for an 18 month Temporary Use Permit (TUP00038) for 40 Begbie Street to operate a Health Contact Centre providing overdose prevention and related health services on a temporary basis.

I am aware that the Centre provides a number of integrated health services for the Fraser Health Authority, including witnessed consumption, drug checking, harm reduction supplies and regular drug sweeps of the community, including sharps recovery. These are vital and life-saving services and I am appreciative of the Purpose Society, with the support of various levels of government, for operating these services to support some of our community's most vulnerable residents in the midst of an unprecedented toxic drug crisis that killed 35 people in New Westminster in 2024 (<https://www.newwestrecord.ca/local-news/35-deaths-in-new-west-attributed-to-unregulated-drugs-in-2024-10182936>).

I understand that the Purpose Society wishes to operate the Centre for 18 months or until the Fraser Health Authority can establish an alternate overdose prevention service outside the Downtown area, whichever happens first. This is a reasonable approach that allows for continuity of services and care for people in our community. It is a part of an evidence-based approach to public safety and wellbeing in our City.

I am pleased to see the collaboration between the City of New Westminster, Fraser Health, the Ministry of Health, and the Purpose Society to come up with practical plans and solutions to address this urgent need in our community. I support TUP00038 as part of the City's broader strategy for addressing multiple crises in our community. In my view, it be deeply harmful to not allow this TUP (or to confine it to a shorter period that would not allow for a safe and orderly transition to a new service). Thank you for inviting our comment on this proposal and I thank Mayor and Council, along with City staff, for your work on this important file.

My very best,

Debra Parkes  
New Westminster resident