

Town of Cochrane PROCLAMATION

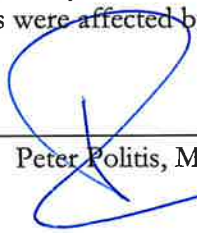
International Overdose Awareness Day August 31, 2024

- WHEREAS:** every year on August 31, International Overdose Awareness Day is recognized globally as a day which aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths; and
- WHEREAS:** Overdose Awareness Day also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose; and
- WHEREAS:** the Porcupine Health Unit had the second highest opioid-related death rate for 2020 in the province. In 2020, 40 people in the Porcupine Health Unit area died from an opioid-related overdose as compared with 22 people in 2019 (81.8% increase), equating to a rate of 46.9 and 25.8 per 100,000 for 2020 and 2019, respectively (Ontario rates: 16.4 and 10.4). In 2021, our cases and rate unfortunately remained at the same alarming levels; and
- WHEREAS:** drug-related overdose is an international health concern that devastates the lives of individuals and families as well as communities; and
- WHEREAS:** Overdose Awareness Day sends a strong message to individuals who formerly used or currently use substances that they are valued; and

NOW THEREFORE:

I, Peter Politis, Mayor of the Town of Cochrane, do hereby proclaim August 31st, as "**Overdose Awareness Day**" in the Town of Cochrane Ontario.

I encourage everyone to act with compassion and understanding towards those individuals whose lives were affected by overdose.

Signed  _____
Peter Politis, Mayor, Town of Cochrane

Date: 13/08/2024