



HEALTH RESPONSES TO THE OPIOID POISONING CRISIS: ON-THE-GROUND EXPERIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Monday, 2nd March 2020, 14:10 - 15:00
Conference Room MOE100, VIC

*Organised by Canada, the Canadian Association of People who Use Drugs,
the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network,
the Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation and the International Drug Policy Consortium*

Fatal drug-related overdose is a pressing health crisis in North America. Highly potent synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and analogues, are increasingly present in the unregulated opioid supply and have contributed to unprecedented increases in overdose deaths. Several countries in Europe have also recently experienced a rising loss of lives from accidental opioid overdose. While the expanding opioid poisoning crisis has been a focus of international attention in recent years, discussions have primarily focused on supply reduction, rather than health, interventions. Speakers will discuss emerging and established health responses to address the ongoing high incidence of opioid overdose fatalities in their countries, including scaling up harm reduction services and reducing barriers to the regulated opioid supply. Reflecting upon their on-the-ground experiences, speakers will also highlight relevant implications for the CND and other international bodies at the UN.

Speakers:

- **Asma Fakhri**, Coordinator, UNODC Opioid Strategy, and Programme Management Officer, UNODC Laboratory and Scientific Section
- **Carol Anne Chénard**, Director, Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Controlled Substances Directorate, Health Canada
- **Frank Crichlow**, Acting President, Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs
- **Natasha Touesnard**, Treasurer, Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs
- **Maria Plotko**, Senior Program Officer, Eurasian Harm Reduction Association

Moderator:

- **Marie Nougier**, Head of Research and Communications, International Drug Policy Consortium



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