



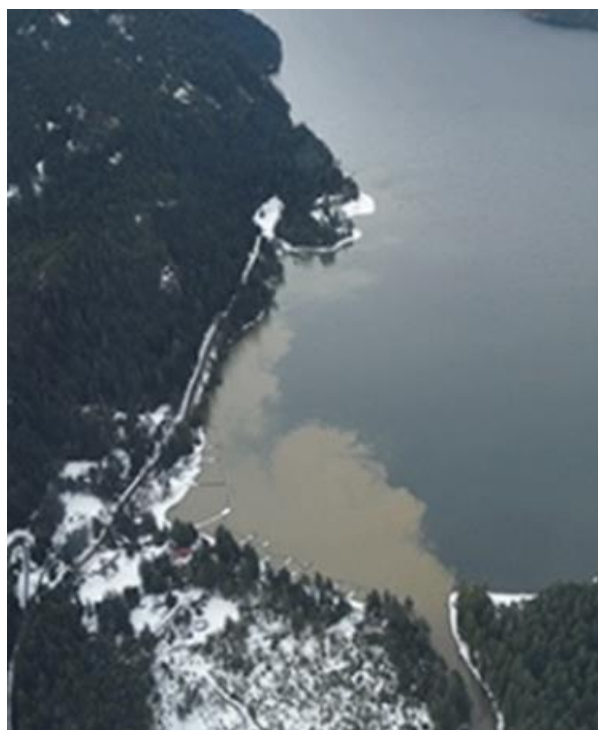
# BC Toxicology News Monthly Bulletin

## February - 2017

### 1. List of contents

- 1. List of contents.....
- 2. BC Toxicology Picture of the Month .....
- 3. Distribution of toxicological news in this issue....
- 4. Toxic Spills .....
- 5. Pesticides .....
- 6. [Drinking] water high exposure .....
- 7. Air high exposure .....
- 8. Air temperature and pollution.....
- 9. Food high exposure.....
- 10. Soil high exposure .....
- 11. Food recall, CFIA .....
- 12. Marine “positive” biotoxins - CFIA.....
- 13. Fentanyl high exposure.....
- 14. Meetings .....
- 15. Other conferences .....
- 16. Toxicology jobs in BC.....
- 17. Other news.....

### 2. BC Toxicology Picture of the Month



45,000 of the residents in the Comox Valley in Vancouver Island were asked to boil their water because intense rainfall has caused turbidity to interfere with the safe treatment of drinking water. Turbid water is coming into Comox Lake from Perseverance Creek on Feb. 16, 2017. (Adopted from [CBC News](#))

**About Us:**

**Aims and Scope.** BC Toxicology News Monthly Bulletin (BCTOX) aims to popularise the knowledge of toxicology and expand utility of the awareness of Toxicology News in British Columbia, Canada. It tries to connect health professionals with online published toxicology news and publicly available information. BCTOX mainly focuses on adapting or summarizing toxicology relevant news in BC. The Bulletin accepts and welcomes contribution of professionals and public as long as they met BCTOX standards.

This bulletin is not official and nor peer reviewed. It does not cover all the news, and is not responsible for the accuracy of the news from media. It is, however, BC related, informative, handpicked and fun reading it.

**How to access the original news items?** If you click on the link related to each one of the provided news, it would take you to the original site of the news.

**Publication Frequency.** BCTOX is published quarterly in English by Reza Afshari. Provided information in GRAY is not related to the current issue, but could be of interest.

**Policies:**

**Open Access Policy.** This Bulletin provides open access to all its content.

**Fee.** BCTOX is free-of-charge for readers and contributors.

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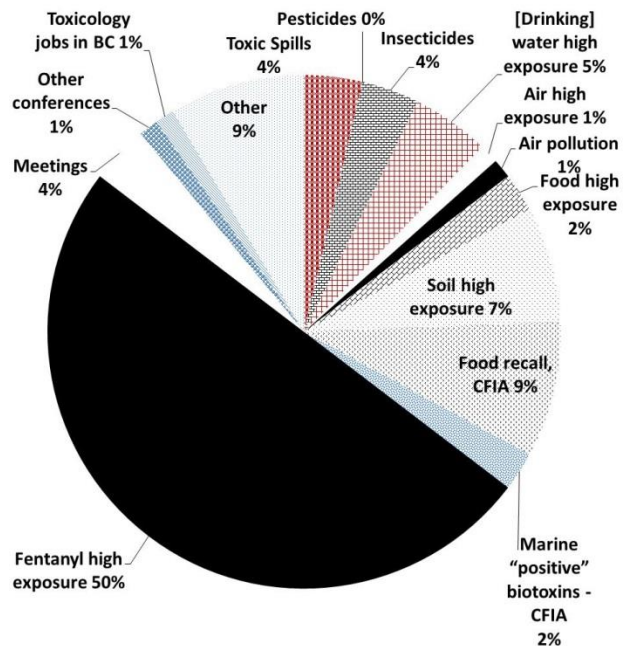
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To contribute to the next issues, provide your opinion or report a mistake, please email to [Reza.Afshari@bccdc.ca](mailto:Reza.Afshari@bccdc.ca)  
Any feedback would be appreciated.  
If this bulletin is not of interest to you, let me know not to fill up your mailbox in future, please.

## 2. Distribution of toxicological news in this issue

Toxicology news in this month was still focused on Fentanyl overdose (50%) followed by food recall (9%) and soil high exposure (7%).



### 3. Toxic Spills

Incident date	Who	Nearest Community	Spilled Content	Source	Link/Source
<b>Or general news</b>					
2017-02-08	Province	2013 Lemon Creek, B.C.	fuel spill. Tanker truck rolled spilling more than 30,000 litres of jet fuel into Lemon Creek and Slocan River.		<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>
2017-02-03	Saskatchewan premier Brad Wall		was responding to a 5,000-litre crude oil spill earlier this week at a Tundra Energy terminal 270 kilometres southeast of Regina. The leak came just weeks after 200,000 litres of oil seeped onto low-lying agricultural land belonging to the Ocean Man First Nation. Wall said Calgary-based Tundra has cleaned up almost all of the first spill. There is no evidence the 50-year old line was ever inspected, but Wall said the second release was from a pipeline that was looked at in July.		<a href="#">Daily Courier</a>
2017-02-02	Queen of Burnaby		out of service again due to oil leak. BC Ferries repair plans bring Bowen Queen to town during disruption in service. "Our commitment is to the environment," [but This will be the fourth time in a little over a year]		<a href="#">Powel River Peak</a>

### 4. Pesticides

Incident/report date	Description	Source
2017-02-...	None returned	---

### 5. [Drinking] water high exposure

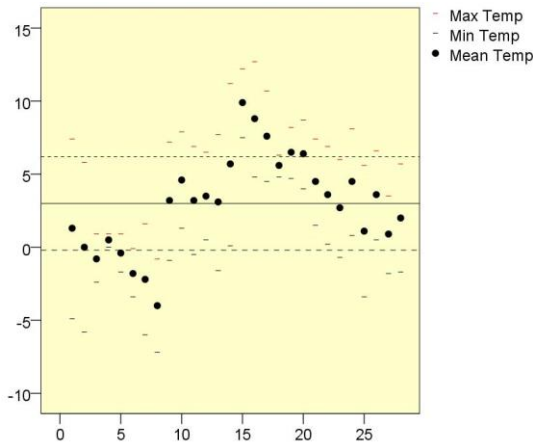
Incident/report date	Contaminant	Area	Location	No of samples/Results	Source
2017-02-23	Wastewater	Metro Vancouver	region's five wastewater treatment plants	In 2015, the processed about 415 billion litres of wastewater, treating the sewage solids to remove harmful bacteria and producing 51,967 tonnes of biosolids.	<a href="#">VanSun</a>
2017-02-18	Turbidity	Vancouver Island	Residents in the Comox Valley (n=45,000)	Residents are asked to boil their water because intense rainfall has caused turbidity to interfere with the safe treatment of drinking water	<a href="#">CBCNews</a>
2017-02-02	Summer droughts	Metro Vancouver	A public at a meeting in North Vancouver last month	Is tweaking its summer water conservation plan to include fewer mornings of lawn sprinkling, restrictions on sports field watering and restrictions on commercial car washes during summer droughts	<a href="#">NorthShoreNews</a>

### 6. Air high exposure

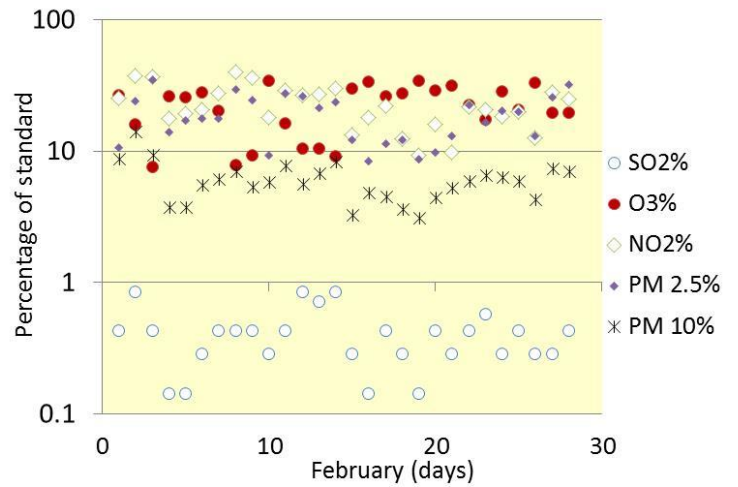
Incident/report date	Description	Area Location	No of samples/Results	Source
2016-02-22	Courtenay mayor & an expert disputes reports		The Guardian (UK), used data from WHO PM2.5s to rank cities around the world in terms of air pollution, and Vancouver turned out to be the town as having the highest air pollution in Canada. Courtenay does have one of the highest air pollution levels in B.C., consistently exceeding provincial objectives. It was identified as one of the red zones under the Canadian Ambient National Air Quality Standard "So it's targeted for extra attention	<a href="#">TimesColonist</a>

2016-02-10	Letter	The Marcellus, which provides nearly 20 per cent of U.S. gas supply, is similar in size to British Columbia's major shale gas deposit, the Montney. Hopes for B.C.'s non-existent liquefied natural gas industry are based on its accelerated exploitation.	<a href="#">The Tyee</a>
2016-02-10	Letter	I grew up in east Vancouver in the 1940s-60s and well remember the dirty air that we all breathed. I lived in houses that had oil stoves, sawdust burners, wood and coal stoves and furnaces. The atmosphere in and outside our dwellings was polluted. Industrial pollution was rampant and the contribution of cars, trucks and buses should not go unmentioned (and, of course, cigarette and cigar smoking was extensive).	<a href="#">Tricitynews</a>
2016-02-10	Thompson Rivers University professor Michael Mehta	Ministry of Environment air quality readings is 'completely inadequate'	<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>

## 7. Air temperature and pollution



Air temperature (C)-Vancouver Airport 2017-02



Air pollution (percentage of acceptable levels) (EPA)-Vancouver-Kitsilano- 2017-01

## 8. Food high exposure

Incident/report date	Contaminant	Source
2017-02-21	More than a dozen employees of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority got food poisoning from food served at an event held at St. Boniface Hospital earlier this week.	<a href="#">ProMed</a>
2017-02-17	100 stranded whales on New Zealand beach	<a href="#">BBC</a>

## 9. Soil high exposure

Incident/ report date	Contaminant	Area	Report	Source
2017-02-23	Andrew Weaver, Leader of the B.C. Green Party.	BC	I am glad the Minister has finally pulled the permit, but it is completely unacceptable that it took this long. It is egregious that the people of Shawnigan had to take their government to court simply to receive representation.	<a href="#">BCGreens</a>
2017-02-23	Waste discharge	BC	Environment Minister Mary Polak: The B.C. government has cancelled the waste discharge permit that allowed a quarry upstream from Shawnigan Lake to receive and store contaminated soil. She issued a spill prevention order to ensure appropriate measures are taken to reduce the risk of leachate escaping from the facility into the environment	<a href="#">CBCNews</a> <a href="#">VanSun</a>
2017-02-16	---	BC	Several truckloads of contaminated soil have been trucked away from the site of Victoria's former tent city as part of remediation and restoration efforts. oil testing at the site revealed low levels of fuel and methamphetamines which made the soil removal necessary. The Ministry of Technology and Innovation estimates about one tonne of dirt has been trucked away from the site and more is expected to be removed by the end of this week. It is being processed at a facility just outside of Victoria. The ministry says in a statement that the remediation is estimated to cost around \$350,000.	<a href="#">CBCNews</a>
2017-02-15	CS e-Link	BC	Administrative Bulletin 3 (PDF) prescribes the administrative process for legal instrument applications being submitted during the regulatory transition period ending <i>October 31, 2017</i> , when the new numerical standards under the Stage 10 Amendment to the Contaminated Sites Regulation (CSR) will come into force.	<a href="#">GOV...contam</a> <a href="#">inated sites</a>
2017-02-14	Raminder Grewal, president Keystone Env Ltd		The ministry of Environment will be looking at new numerical standards to measure site contamination. Based on new toxicological information, some of the standards will become more relaxed and some more stringent."	<a href="#">J Commerce</a>
2017-02-14	Sandbags, bales of weed-free straw, crushed gravel, silt fencing	BC	The extra supplies of BC Hydro has stockpiled at the Site C dam construction site to avoid federal fines. The contingency supplies, must be on hand to mitigate potential environmental effects, such as those to fish and fish habitat, as a result of construction activities [BC Hydro Let Off Hook for \$400,000 Site C Dam Fine]	<a href="#">DeSmogCANA</a> <a href="#">DA</a>

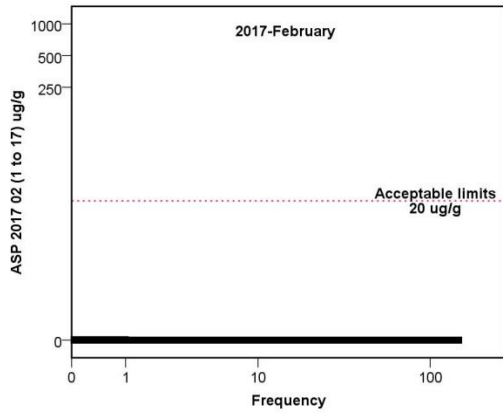
## 10. Food recall, CFIA

Incident date	Food (Company / Firm)	Reason to recall	Hazard classification	Distribution/Link
2017-02-28	Ziyad brand Soup Starter Soup Base – Jameed	Undeclared milk (allergen)	2	<a href="#">BC</a>
2017-02-24	Trader Joe's brand apple sauce products	Extraneous Material (pieces of glass)	2	<a href="#">BC</a>
2017-02-24	Happy brand pudding products	Undeclared milk (allergen)	1	<a href="#">BC AB</a>
2017-02-09	Schneider's Gourmet World Seasonings	Undeclared milk (allergen)	1	<a href="#">National</a>
2017-02-08	Update - President choice Organics brand baby food pouches	presence of Microbiological - Clostridium botulinum	1	<a href="#">National</a>
2017-02-03	Garden Choice brand Cheese	Undeclared wheat (allergen)	1	<a href="#">BC Al On Qu</a>
2017-02-01	Organics brand Apple, Blueberry & Green Pea strained baby food	presence of Microbiological - Clostridium botulinum	1	<a href="#">National</a>

<sup>CFIA</sup> Canadian Food Inspection Agency

## 11. Marine "positive" biotoxins - CFIA

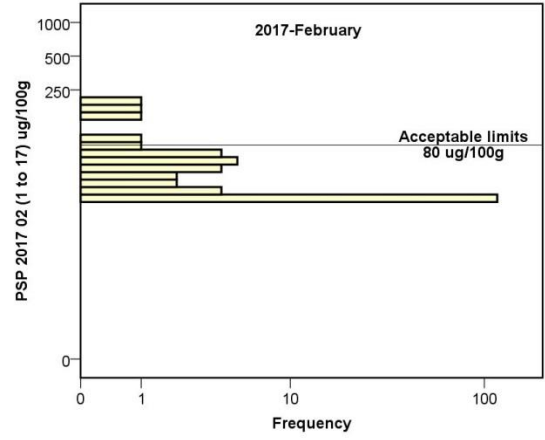
Harvest /published date	Type	Area	Location	Species	Result
ASP (ug/g)					
1.8, 1.6					
DSP (ug/g)					
O+DTX ND, P 0.01					
PSP (ugeq/100g)					



ASP

PSP values decreased but still higher than expected.

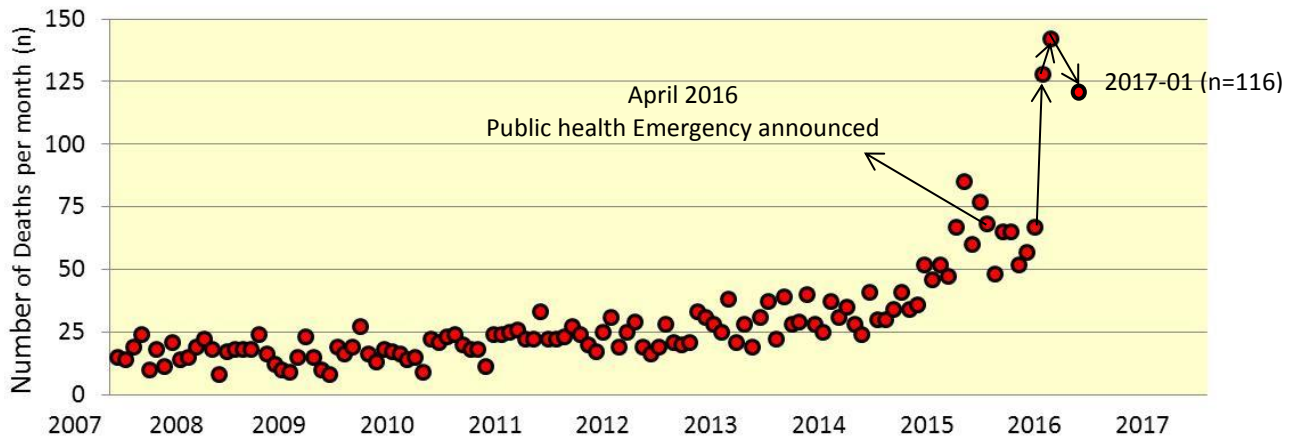
ASP and PSP (updated by 17<sup>th</sup> of February).



DSP

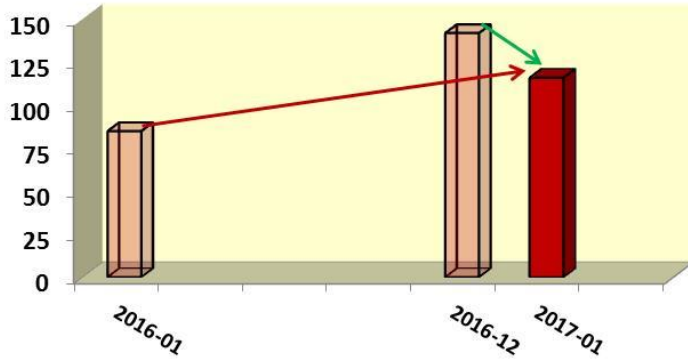
PSP

## 12. Fentanyl high exposure



Opioid overdose induced deaths per month (2007 to 2017) [data for 2017-02 has not be released to date]

February 2017  
 = + 36% January 2016  
 = - 18% December 2016



The number of opioid overdose deaths in January 2017 is 36% higher than January last year, and 18% lower than last month.  
 [data for 2017-02 has not be released to date]

Incident/report date	Who	Area Location	No of samples/Results	Source
2017-02-28		---	Medical marijuana carries infectious bacteria and fungi that can pose a life-threatening risk to cancer patients who use pot to help with side effects of chemotherapy, a new study suggests	<a href="#">Medline+</a>
2017-02-27	Dr. Ron Joe with Vancouver Coastal Health	BC	B.C. opens on-demand addiction treatment clinic to tackle overdose crisis	<a href="#">TheStar</a>
2017-02-26	Health Canada		The RCMP say pebble heroin seized in Surrey last December has come back positive for the chemical W-18	<a href="#">CTVNews</a>
2017-02-26	Letter		Suggestion: Another tool would be a compound that is sensitive to fentanyl and carfentanil that can be soaked in indicator strips and can be exposed to the street drug about to be consumed.	<a href="#">kelownadaily courier</a>
2017-02-26	CMP national drug program coordinator Sgt. Luc Chicoine		Fentanyl trafficking presents new challenges for B.C. RCMP. Fentanyl is slipping through borders in new ways.	<a href="#">VanSun</a>
2017-02-22	Perry Kendal		Treating addiction amounts to "a series of disconnected silos" that in some instances increases the likelihood someone will overdose. People say the system is broken, but that's a misstatement because it implies there was a system. Speaking at a Canadian Mental Health Association conference in Vancouver on Wednesday. "A system is defined as a series of interlinked parts that function to make a whole."	<a href="#">CTVNews</a>
2017-02-22	Perry Kendal		Opioid crisis claimed 922 lives in B.C. in 2016 (The updated death toll is higher than the 914 fatal overdoses initially reported)	<a href="#">CTVNews</a>
2017-02-22	Perry Kendal		When you have an unregulated market, with unskilled people mixing up white powders in a back room with a blender or whatever, that you can just really, really run into problems	<a href="#">GlobalNews</a>
2017-02-18	--		How do we solve B.C.'s opioid overdose crisis? 1. Cut off the supply, 2. Decriminalize drugs, 3. Manage addiction better, 4. Expand prescription heroin programs, 5. Treat causes of addiction	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-18	Provincial Pain Summit		Overdose crisis has led to over-restrictive thinking amongst doctors The pain is just never-ending': Making the case for long-term opioid use Why pain education is linked to B.C.'s fentanyl crisis Pain sufferers turning to street drugs as B.C. doctors prescribe fewer opioids	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-17	B.C. transplant specialist		Drug overdose organ donors on the rise. Canadian Transplant Society says recipients don't mind if organ comes from someone killed by a drug overdose. Globally, Between 2013 and 2016, donors who tested positive for drugs when they died grew from about seven per cent to 22 per cent.	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>

2017-02-17		Victoria	Deadly opioid overdoses drop a bit in BC last month Most people dying of illicit drug overdoses are men between 30 and 49-years-old: Coroner	<a href="#">NEWS1130</a>
2017-02-17			Mother in India loses her only child to suspected fentanyl overdose in Canada. Canadian relatives raise \$30,000 in one day to fly body home to India and pay off family debt	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-17	Federal H. Minister Jane Philpott		B.C. is getting a \$10-million boost in funding to help curb the opioid crisis gripping the province	<a href="#">CTVNEWS</a>
2017-02-16	David Landsberg, provincial medical director of transplant services		Organ transplants surge in B.C. because of fentanyl-overdose deaths,	<a href="#">NationalPost</a>
2017-02-13			The new tool to fight fentanyl: a nasal spray that stops overdoses in their tracks. RCMP detachment was among the first to receive the nasal-spray version of Narcan.	<a href="#">NationalPost</a>
2017-02-07	Terry Lake Health Minister	BC	Almost \$8M in additional funding announced for the B.C. Centre on Substance Use	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-07	---	BC	--- B.C.'s new protocols for opioid abuse treatment garner some criticism – which take effect in June [missed the opportunity to widen the availability of Supervised Injectable Opioid Assisted Treatment (siOAT)] --- A record 343 people died of fentanyl-related overdoses in 2016, compared with 257 in 2015 in Alberta. (Alberta's total illicit-drug overdoses for 2016 are not yet available.)	<a href="#">Global &amp; Mail</a>
2017-02-05	Bruce Alexander, researcher	BC	A controversial study done in the 1970s called "Rat Park," in which a group of overcrowded, stressed rats chose to use opioids, while rodents housed in a luxurious "Rat Park" abstained, believes people are like those rats. "The fundamental problem is we live in a screwed up world"	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-05	CBCnews archive	BC	Looking at the fentanyl fix through the lens of history	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-04	2. Head BC drug policy coalition 4. Mother of overdose victim	BC	1. Injectable opioids homegrown solution to fix fentanyl crisis 2. Legally regulating drugs like fentanyl is the only way to stop deaths 3. 'Odd Squad' cops say prevention, not more harm reduction, needed for fentanyl crisis 4. Dangers of opioid prescriptions and doctor shopping 5. Psychiatric care a major part of tackling fentanyl crisis 6. Decriminalizing drugs helped <i>Portugal</i> solve its overdose crisis	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-04	Canada Border Services Agency	BC	China is the principal source country of the fentanyl that makes its way into Canada.	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-04	B.C. Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe	BC	Comparing B.C.'s overdose crisis to those in other countries is difficult	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-03	Selina Robinson, BC NDP MLA		Who is the opposition spokesperson for mental health and addictions. "Naloxone is a tiny, tiny little piece that can keep people alive, its important but not the solution. We need to be talking about solutions; prevention programs and we need to have conversations with our kids."	<a href="#">MyPrinceGeorgeNow</a>
2017-02-03	Dr. Harvey Milkman, Psychologist behind Iceland's strategy		Government sponsored 'natural highs' have significantly reduced drinking and drug use in Icelandic teens. The multifaceted approach includes state-sponsored recreational activities and after-school programs meant to enhance family ties and community bonds. In Canada, nearly 60 per cent of illicit drug users are 15 to 24.	<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>
2017-02-03	Mother of drug addict		I am worried the next time she picks up the phone it will be the police on the other end telling me; my daughter has died from a drug overdose	<a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-03	Dr. Virani, a senior public-health Dr		BC releases, but Alberta called out for holding back data amid opioid crisis	<a href="#">Global&amp;Mail</a>
2017-02-03	Perry Kendall		Presence of carfentanil detected. Unless more is done, the burden of death and injury will continue. Stigma has blunted our compassion. No single cause, no easy solutions	<a href="#">MyPrinceGeorgeNow</a> <a href="#">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-03	Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson will head the initiative		Mayors from a dozen major Canadian cities have launched a task force to tackle the opioid crisis. The task force will meet with federal Health Minister Jane Philpott and Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, though a date has not yet been set.	<a href="#">CastaNet</a>
2017-02-03	Dr. Gabor Maté, physician on the		Fixing fentanyl means treating trauma that creates addicts. It is not a fault, not a moral lapse, not a sin, not a failure of will, nor yet even an	<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>



	Downtown Eastside for 12 years,	inherited disease, but a complex response to suffering. Trauma, induced by Canada's colonial history and far from healed yet, is also what accounts for the high rates of alcoholism and other substance dependencies in our First Nations communities	
2017-02-02	--- Dr. Blatherwick --- Dr. Lake --- Pr BerniePaulyUVIC [on Dr. Kendall]	--- Has the ear of Health Minister Terry Lake on the overdose crisis. --- I don't think you could find any person working in public health in Canada who has the experience and helped shape the response to so many public health issue. --- Is best to be in that lead role in the province	<a href="#">Global &amp; Mail</a>
2017-02-02		RCMP training dogs to detect fentanyl; dog has already intercepted pills in B.C. [all 139 RCMP narcotics profile dog teams across Canada]	<a href="#">CTVNews</a>
2017-02-02	---	The B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons admitted that unsafe prescribing practices contributed towards the province's fentanyl crisis, and it has since revised its regulations. --- Never-ending pain. Limiting access	<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>
2017-02-02	Dr. Bill MacEwan	Psychiatric care a major part of tackling fentanyl crisis	<a href="#">CBC NEWS</a>
2017-02-02	Akrum Ghadban, off in charge of the RCMP Police Dog Service Training Centre	The RCMP is training dogs to detect the deadly synthetic opioid fentanyl, and they say the training has already paid off (12,000 tablets in B.C) --- At its centre in Innisfail, Alta.	<a href="#">CASTANET</a>
2017-02-01	Vancouver's mayor	Fixing fentanyl needs investments in health and housing to break deadly cycle	<a href="#">CBCNews</a>
2017-02-01	Odd Squad	'Odd Squad' cops say prevention, not more harm reduction, needed for fentanyl crisis. --- Odd Squad: a group of officers, retired officers and others who for years have reached out to kids with videos and presentations about the dangers of drug use.	<a href="#">CBCNews</a>
2017-02-01	Mayor ... Surrey	says relationships with 'street entrenched' people key to breaking down resistance to getting help --- Last year, the Surrey Fire Service alone responded to 2,623 overdoses, up from 1,606 in 2015; an increase of over 60 per cent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People becoming street entrenched</li> <li>• Need to build relationships</li> <li>• Reaching those resistant to change</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CBCNews</a>

### 13. Meetings

Date	Title	Where
2017-03-03	The Art and Science of Working with Fungi: Growing Mushrooms for Food, Medicine and Soil	6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan St., Vancouver
2017-02-14	Monthly meeting of the Vancouver Mycological Society (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month)	7:00 PM at VanDusen Floral Hall
2017-02-24	7 <sup>h</sup> Toxicology-learning-group meeting	11:00 to 12:00 at BCCDC-EHS

### 14. Other conferences

Date	Title	Where
2017-10-11/15	North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) Congress 2017.	<a href="#">Vancouver</a>

### 15. Toxicology jobs in BC

Date	Title	Where
2017-10-11/15	Scientific Director, Provincial Toxicology Centre	PHSA-Vancouver

## 16. Other news

Incident/ report date	Who	Area Location	No of samples/Results	Source
2017-02			BCCDC Foundation Open Awards Program spring competition is now open	PHSANEWS
2017-02-28			Clark's '5 Conditions' Concealed Support For B.C. Oil Projects	<a href="http://Huffingtonpost.ca">Huffingtonpost.ca</a>
2017-02-24			Kim Jong-nam, the half-brother of North Korea's leader, was killed by a highly toxic nerve agent (Malaysia)	<a href="http://BBCNEWS">BBCNEWS</a> <a href="http://ProMed">ProMed</a>
2017-02-22	City Council	Vancouver	Votes 8-2 in favour of challenging B.C. government's environmental approval of Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion	<a href="http://CBCNEWS">CBCNEWS</a>
2017-02-21	Aquarium CEO John Nightingale	Vancouver	Vancouver aquarium officials say they still don't know what killed two beluga whales last year, but the facility is pushing ahead with plans to expand its beluga conservation program.	<a href="http://DailyCourier">DailyCourier</a>
2017-02-09	Raincoast Conservation Foundation		Re: 5 conditions met for B.C.'s approval of Kinder Morgan pipeline: ---Satisfying those requirements would either be conveniently fungible or realistically unattainable. --- There is no such thing as world-leading or world-class oil spill response, prevention and recovery [oil spill response capabilities were grossly overstated] --- no response is possible in rough weather, high seas and dangerous condition	<a href="http://VanSun">VanSun</a>
2017-02-08	Pablo Romero Barrios		BCCDC's Lorraine McIntyre appointed to Health Canada's Food Expert Advisory Committee	<a href="http://BCCDC news">BCCDC news</a>