Dear Editors,

RE: Manuscript Submission – Commentary Article

Manuscript Title: Youth and the Opioid Crisis

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Please find our manuscript for submission as a Commentary Article for the Medicine of Youth issue in The University of British Columbia Medical Journal (UBCMJ).

This article is a companion piece to the submission by Perry J. Tompkins, who is also a co-authors on this article.

The opioid crisis has been an emerging public health issue that has most affected our two provinces, Alberta and BC, with BC declaring a public health crisis for the issue in 2016. This is why we, as MD students at the University of Calgary, chose to submit this article to the UBCMJ, as it is highly applicable in both provinces, and effective strategies in one province could be successfully applied in the other.

Nearly 2,500 Canadians died of opioid-related drug overdoses in 2016, with the largest increase in hospitalization for opioid poisoning that year in the 15-24 age group. The factors contributing to opioid use and overdose in youth are unique, as are the prevention, harm reduction and treatment strategies that will be most effective for this age group. This is an under-explored aspect of this public health crisis, and this age group is not often discussed in media coverage of this issue. In this article we highlight youth-oriented strategies and programs to prevent, opioid use and overdose as well as harm-reduction strategies.

This work is original and is not published, nor is it currently submitted elsewhere for consideration. It will not be submitted elsewhere before you make a decision on its acceptability for publication in the Medicine of Youth issue in The University of British Columbia Medical Journal.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Schweitzer, MPhil, BSc
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