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Six Nations High Risk Committee Urges Community Members to Be Substance Aware

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 10, 2017

(Ohsweken, ON) Following two recent drug overdoses in the community on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 Six Nations High Risk Committee would like to urge all community members to be substance aware.

At this point in time Six Nations Police have confirmed that the substance used was cocaine, and are awaiting the results of a toxicology screening as it is suspected the substance was contaminated with a powerful synthetic opioid.

Committed to ensuring the health, well-being and safety of each and every community member, Six Nations High Risk Committee encourages all community members to refrain from using any and all illegal substances or non-prescribed medications.

With the national and local rise of fentanyl related overdoses all community members must be aware and knowledgeable about how they can prevent an opioid overdose.

Quick Fentanyl Facts

- Fentanyl is a highly potent synthetic opioid (painkiller) and is impossible to detect
- Prescribed fentanyl can come in the form of a tablet, lozenge, patch or spray however non-pharmaceutical fentanyl can come in many forms and can also be mixed with other substances
- The most vulnerable populations at risk for overdose are those recently released from custody, habitual users of opioids and children in environments where substances are present
- Physical symptoms of fentanyl or similar opioid overdose include slurred speech, clammy skin, seizures, severe drowsiness, low blood pressure, pinpoint pupils, slowed heartbeat, respiratory depression (ie. slowed breathing) and death can occur without medical intervention
- Naloxone is a medication that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose before seeking further medical attention

Those who may be at risk of exposure are asked to take precaution by picking up a Naloxone Kit, available at the local Pharmasave (1769 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken) or pharmacies in the surrounding area. Kits will be distributed to at-risk patients or their family members cost-free, without a prescription. A valid Ontario Health Card will need to be presented. Information on how to administer the lifesaving drug will also be provided.

In the event of a suspected opioid overdose administer naloxone immediately and call 911.

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For more information on opioids or if you or someone you know is battling with substance use contact:

New Directions Group

1769 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken NOA 1M0

Phone: (519) 445-2947

www.snhs.ca

Fentanyl Community Presentations are also being held February 15 from 6pm-8pm and February 17 from 1pm-3pm at the Six Nations Community Hall (1738 Fourth Line, Ohsweken).