

Dear Mayor and Council,

In my last letter, I demonstrated how senior governments appear to have been utilizing stigma in order to push responsibility onto municipalities for the fallout of their own decisions — including the pursuit of international trade deals with regimes that flood our streets with fentanyl precursors. Today, I am writing to follow up and emphasize that such trade deals are not the only way senior governments have been profiting from weaponized stigma. There is now evidence that they are profiting directly from the *crime and disorder itself*.

Let me explain.

When Civil Forfeiture Replaces Protection

At a home in Kamloops, over 111 police and bylaw calls were logged between 2018 and 2024. Despite this extensive history — and repeated pleas from neighbours — criminal activity persisted. I personally filed a detailed complaint to the Kamloops RCMP in May 2024, warning that a vulnerable woman who owned the house was being exploited by criminal actors as she tried to care for her dying mother. I offered to provide photographic evidence of gang activity and stolen goods, including tools, luggage, electronics, and bicycle parts, but was denied any opportunity to do so.

Police told me the situation was "complicated." In a recorded conversation on May 24, 2024, Kamloops RCMP admitted that repeat thefts and criminal activity were being allowed to continue without arrests, providing no reason for why this was the case. RCMP quickly turned their focus onto me, asking "where I was" and whether I had any "mental health issues" (without making any specific accusations).

Just weeks later, an overdose death occurred at the home. Police seized over 100 grams of suspected crystal meth and a loaded, unlawfully stored firearm — confirming the level of threat I had warned about. So what was the RCMP's reaction to this death, you may ask?

In October 2024, police delivered a letter to the homeowner — threatening civil forfeiture proceedings. The letter referenced the same 111 police and bylaw files that had failed to trigger meaningful protective action over six years. The homeowner had already passed away by the time the letter arrived. My personal complaint about the situation is likely counted as one of those 111 files.

The message was unmistakable:

We won't intervene to protect you, but we will seize your home if you fail to protect yourself.

This is not public safety, this is institutional failure turned into a financial opportunity.

Profiting from Crime, Not Just Stigma

Civil forfeiture was originally intended to remove illicit profit from the hands of organized criminals. Today, it has become something else: a tool used against vulnerable homeowners after years of seemingly purposeful enforcement failure by the same institutions now profiting from property seizure.

Worse still, those who try to intervene — like myself — become targets of suspicion and retaliation.

When I filed my complaint, officers asked invasive questions about my location and mental health history — weaponizing stigma rather than addressing the facts. Unrelated charges were later laid against me in another jurisdiction (which did not result in any criminal conviction), suspiciously just one week after the overdose death — reinforcing the optics of coordinated retaliation and a potential attempt to smear me for my journalism. Disclosure pointed to involvement by the Kamloops RCMP prior to local authorities contacting me about charges.

In fact, I am still facing a charge for Harassing Communications related to my reports to police as a journalist, weeks after reporting police behaviour during those same communications to the OPCC as discriminatory. This appears to be retaliatory. Worse still is the fact that the public (including all of you) are not able to view the charge when looking up my name. You need the file number in order to see the charge (188689), which has been dragging on in court for now over a year. Even probation was never told about the charge, yet Crown is expecting a guilty plea and potential jailtime for this non-violent first offence.

Even the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) initially agreed to communicate with me as the homeowners advocate, then reversed course, issuing deadlines and pressure directly to the

homeowner instead. When I objected to this on grounds of it being coercive, the file became stalled in “assessment” limbo, where it remains now months later. No acknowledgement of unethical behaviour by the CRCC was ever supplied.

This isn't oversight. It's systemic self-protection.

Why This Matters to You

This could happen in any neighbourhood — not just Kamloops. It is not an isolated failure, but a growing pattern:

- Calls for service become evidence for forfeiture, not triggers for meaningful intervention.
- Callers are retaliated against simply for filing reports with police.
- Stigma replaces support, enabling state actors to punish victims while avoiding accountability.
- Civil forfeiture becomes not a justice tool — but a revenue stream built on community harm.

When residents fear that reaching out for help will result in blame or property loss, they will disengage. When stigma is used to justify inaction, entire communities pay the price, and the mental health crisis we British Columbians are facing together only strengthens.

What Municipalities Can Do

Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto's Community Action Plan correctly emphasizes upstream support — housing, health, transportation, and non-profit partnerships — while balancing it with enforcement tools. But without destigmatization being emphasised at every step, even the best-funded plan will fail.

As with my initial letter from January of this year regarding 911 dispatch reform and a lack of meaningful action being taken by the CRCC in terms of criminal code violations being ignored by the RCMP, municipal unity is key. You can:

- Demand disclosure: What oversight exists over civil forfeiture? Are meaningful enforcement attempts documented and confirmed before seizure proceedings begin?
- Push for legislative changes: Require documented intervention efforts before civil forfeiture can proceed — especially in cases involving vulnerable homeowners.
- Establish local civilian oversight: Municipalities should create independent panels to review RCMP, CRCC and Crown conduct — including forfeiture decisions made by the BC Ministry of Justice.
- Reject stigma-based narratives: Addiction is a health issue. So is poverty. So is exploitation. Municipal leaders should challenge any provincial rhetoric that blames victims while monetizing their suffering.

Conclusion: Justice Cannot Be Reversed Into Profit

What we are witnessing is the inversion of justice:

- Neglect reframed as restraint.
- Failure repackaged as due process.
- Disorder weaponized into opportunity.

- Victims recast as criminals.

Civil forfeiture, as currently practiced, risks becoming not a deterrent to crime — *but a business model built atop it*. Without unified action by every municipality in this province, crime and disorder will continue to affect us **all**.

I remain appreciative of all your hard work and advocacy for your constituents. Please feel free to reach out for further information or evidence. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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