

# CANADA-U.S. COOPERATION FIGHTING THE OPIOID CRISIS TOGETHER

Like Americans, Canadians are struggling in record numbers with the consequences of problematic opioid use. In response, the Government of Canada is working with national health organizations, law enforcement, provincial, territorial, and local governments, and international partners to help Canadian families and stem the flow of illegal opioids into North America.

## CANADA IS TAKING ACTION

In 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Donald Trump affirmed our commitment to address the opioid crisis, and we are doing our part domestically. In our most recent budget, we have committed to spend over \$231 million to help provinces and territories improve access to treatment and prevention programs. Some of these funds will help border agents inspect suspicious packages to keep fentanyl and other opiates from entering the country. To this end, we are taking steps with the Chinese government to address the flow of illicit drugs.

## CANADA IS A PARTNER

The flow of counterfeit and illegal pharmaceuticals is a global problem and we are working hand-in-hand with the U.S to address their importation. We have given our customs officers additional resources and authorities—they can now inspect postal packages under 30 grams—to stop illicit drugs from entering Canada and to destroy them. We have also made it harder for drug dealers to mass produce counterfeit pills using fentanyl, disguised as legitimate prescription drugs. Every pill press or encapsulator imported into Canada has to be registered with Health Canada, preventing uncontrolled imports of devices that can be used to manufacture illicit drugs and perpetuate the opioid crisis. And, our public safety and health agencies are working with the U.S. to address the epidemic of opioid-related overdoses through the National American Drug Dialogue—hosted in Canada this year—and other forums.



## OUR EFFORTS ARE PAYING OFF

Last October, as a result of cooperation with Canadian authorities, the Department of Justice indicted two Chinese nationals and their North American distribution network for manufacturing deadly opioids. In March, Calgary police seized illicit narcotics and charged six individuals following a joint investigation with the U.S. as part of Project Arbour. What's more, we are jointly patrolling the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean to prevent drug trafficking through Operation Caribe. And together at the United Nations, Canada and the U.S. have called for greater international controls of synthetic opioids and their chemical precursors. Recently, we were successful in adding carfentanyl to the UN's list of controlled substances. These collective actions have elevated the issue's profile and put bad actors on notice.

**“BECAUSE WE SHARE A STRONG CONCERN ABOUT THE INCREASE IN OPIOID-RELATED DEATHS, OUR COUNTRIES WILL WORK TOGETHER ON COMMON SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM OPIOID TRAFFICKING.”**

– Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, February 13, 2017

