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**Waterloo Regional Police Service issuing public warning about the dangers of powdered fentanyl:**

It has been identified through investigation and recent drug seizures that the presence of fentanyl has become more evident. The number of reported non-fatal drug overdoses throughout the Region is concerning as fentanyl is 100 times more powerful than morphine and therefore more lethal.

Drugs seized through recent investigations believed to have been or reported to be cocaine and/or heroin, have been confirmed through Health Canada Analysis, to be a heroin/fentanyl blend and fentanyl.

Although Waterloo Regional Police and its partners will continue to provide warnings, alerts and information, immediate attention must be given to those who choose to use substances and the increased risk of accidental overdose.

The Waterloo Regional Police Service is committed to strengthening public safety and the quality of life for everyone and is urging anyone who may be users of these types of drugs or come into possession of them, for your own safety - do not use.

An Opioid Overdose is a Medical Emergency (call 911), and:
- Opioids include painkillers like oxycodone, hydromorphone, fentanyl, methadone, codeine, heroin etc.
- Seconds matter. A victim cannot save themselves. Witnesses to an overdose are the very first responders.
- Those at-risk of an opioid overdose include people using as prescribed or not.
- The presence of bootleg fentanyl (a high-dose, black market opioid) adds urgency to the opioid crisis. A record-setting number of deaths are occurring in Alberta, British Columbia and much of the U.S.A.
- Ontario has no (real time) surveillance, plan or crisis response in place.
- In Ontario one person dies from an opioid-related overdose every 14 hours. In Waterloo Region (2013), opioid overdose deaths totalled 21 victims and deaths from motor vehicle collisions totalled 10 victims.
- An opioid antagonist and a (temporary) antidote for an opioid-related overdose, called Naloxone, is available for people who are using opioids via Sanguen Health Centre and is a proven lifesaver and a World Health Organization-recommended Essential Medicine.

For training on preventing an overdose and/or to access naloxone, contact the Sanguen Health Centre at 519-603-0223; and/or the Waterloo Region Public Health at 519-575-4400.

In the past several months, the Waterloo Regional Police Service has partnered with the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy (WRIDS) and the Overdose, Monitoring, Alert, Response System (OMARS) to provide information and education to those who are using substances regularly/occasionally and to direct service providers, family and friends of substance users.

[http://whatsyourrole.org/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwhatsyourrole.org%2F&h=xAQExXhudAQEqj2z9Ni8YobHHojXgpmh1Z5MNgu_J6MtVyA&enc=AZN6nsLwq15I-RKfSHc0fuyABa2YHjn5wY7ttzt0GkWkJFhoCKajNnbtpc_sv9R5x08KSIpHfc7N8uIzUb0mzgTCTVmR-zbmohGfUfGnUCTWCxa7hUd9F2vByAvtIGqU8I_lVuFB-Lqb8VAehjc6ipAO_75hq2npREc0-giuZFaVxx3RmBTxf27p6pBDs9hSyJDWKdBGH4dytgUlEckdVGfK&s=1)