

City is taking action on drug problem: Kruk

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One of things that comes with growing older is the remoteness of recognition.

Many adults are unable to recognize the symptoms, lingo or signs of drug usage and addiction.

"Educating the adults as to what's really going on with their kids - educating the young people in the community about the realities of the dangers of the drugs they're dabbling in and fooling around with or thinking of fooling around with," Mason said.

He pointed specifically to what he sees as the growing issue of crystal meth in this community.

"You cannot candy coat reality with crystal meth. Crystal meth is here (Dawson Creek). I don't care who says it isn't. I spoke with a person here last night that's a dealer of crystal meth and I could tell as soon as I saw him that he was high on meth because he's got all the symptoms - facial sores and everything else," Mason said.

Mason has seen this type of scenario before, and says that it becomes very important to begin the attack on the drug before it gets a stranglehold on the community.

"It's definitely here and it's definitely escalating and it will snowball if something isn't done about it. Personally, I challenge the RCMP to get something happening here," said

Mason.

Mason said he is tired of hearing that the police are handcuffed from acting on their suspicions because of the constitution.

"People are dying as a result of what's going on and something needs to be done. Quit pretending there isn't a problem - and the mayor needs to hear this too.... (W)e've had a whole bunch of people in the field here today acknowledge there definitely is a problem. Playing ostrich won't deal with the problem."

But Dawson Creek Mayor Calvin Kruk said City officials are dealing with the issue.

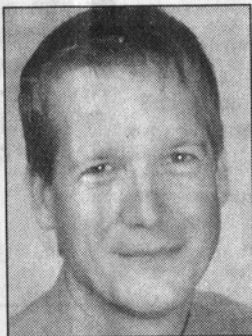
"I think that any time drugs are around there is a problem. And I think that we are doing what we can to counter that - we're very supportive. We've initiated Drug Free Dawson Creek, support programs are avail-

able," Kruk said, adding that if there are suggestions from the public that the City would be happy to hear them.

"If there are methods that we haven't approached the problem with, we would certainly like to hear solutions. We want to work on it.... We want to see solutions for the difficulties."

Kruk doesn't see a quick fix for any of the societal issues, stating that Dawson Creek - like every other community - has challenges.

"I think that if we haven't looked at a potential solution then we have to get on it."



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