

Peterborough Supports Supervised Consumption Option Consultations Reveal Strong Local Support for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site

Peterborough, ON — A recent survey of local residents shows broad community support for current efforts to establish a Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site in downtown Peterborough.

The survey, conducted online in November 2019, garnered 1,621 responses and found that 74 percent of participants agree that a CTS site will benefit the community. Participants ranked the reduction of injuries and deaths from drug overdoses and poisonings, prevention of blood-borne infections, and less publicly discarded needles and drug litter as key benefits of providing CTS.

"It's great to see such positive response from those who answered the survey both in terms of understanding the key benefits of providing a consumption and treatment service as well as making the service accessible to meet identified needs, both of which reinforce the evidence base that exists," says Dr Rosanna Salvaterra, Peterborough's Medical Officer of Health and a member of Peterborough's CTS Steering Committee.

A separate survey of 122 people in Peterborough who use injection drugs found that 91% would access a Consumption and Treatment Services site in downtown Peterborough.

The results of both surveys will be published in a community consultation and engagement report that will accompany separate applications to the federal and provincial governments to operate and fund the CTS.

Additional consultations will be held with stakeholders in the immediate area of the proposed site once a location is confirmed. Ongoing updates and opportunities to get involved are available at www.peterboroughdrugstrategy.com/cts/get-involved/.

"We thank the community for the participation in this survey," says Peterborough Mayor Diane Therrien. "We continue to use a variety of methods to reduce opioid related deaths in our community while the CTS application moves forward."

A CTS will provide onsite services as well as defined pathways to addiction treatment services, primary care, mental health, housing, and other social supports. The CTS will provide people who use injection drugs a safe, hygienic space to use those drugs under the supervision of health professionals in order to prevent opioid poisoning deaths.

The group working to bring a CTS to Peterborough includes: Peterborough MPP Dave Smith, Peterborough Mayor Diane Therrien, Selwyn Township Deputy Mayor Sherry Senis

(representing the County of Peterborough), Fourcast (Four Counties Addiction Services Team), Peterborough Public Health, Peterborough Police Service, Canadian Mental Health Association, Peterborough Regional Health Centre, the 360 Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic and PARN. The group also includes private business White Path Consulting, a retired ER physician and community members with experience in developing inclusive programs.

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