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MARCH 10, 2022

## **Progress Being Made on Consumption and Treatment Services Site** *Preparations Underway to Meet Federal and Provincial Standards*

PETERBOROUGH, ON – The recent announcement by the Province of Ontario to fund Peterborough’s application for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site (CTS) has paved the way for local addiction treatment agency Fourcast to take the next steps to prepare the site for service delivery. This long-anticipated funding, which amounts to \$1,357,100 annually from the province, is the culmination of a lengthy approval process that has involved the efforts of several local agencies.

“Fortunately, we’re six months ahead of schedule thanks to the community’s generous contributions during the Light The Way campaign this past autumn,” says Fourcast Executive Director, Donna Rogers. The effort, which raised more than \$160k, allowed for renovations to prepare the site at 220 Simcoe St. “It’s important to recognize that, while it has been a long road to get us to this point, we still have to make upgrades to the space to adhere to the guidelines detailed in the federal exemption and by the Ministry of Health,” she adds.

“The addition of the CTS is another tool in the continuum of services required to confront the drug poisoning crisis,” says Jessica Penner, Coordinator with the Peterborough Drug Strategy (PDS). “The aim is to provide a full scope of wraparound services and supports, including referrals to relevant community services. The pandemic has highlighted how devastating the drug poisoning crisis has been for our community, so we’re eager to provide a service that will enhance safety, connection, and access to lifesaving supports.”

As renovations to the CTS are completed, Rogers points out that a Safe Supply program is now launching through the Peterborough 360 Degree Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic. “We maintain a strong, strategic alliance with several community partners that offer programs and services that revolve around substance-related harms. The Health Canada-funded Safe Supply program is a separate initiative that will contribute to our community’s comprehensive and integrated response to the drug poisoning crisis.”

“Now that we can move ahead with the CTS, we look forward to providing support and serving our community as best we can while bringing the facility up to federal and provincial standards,” says Rogers, who clarifies that Consumption and Treatment Service Sites do not provide drugs. They offer a safe, sterile environment overseen by trained staff and health professionals. Within these inclusive and accessible facilities, staff conduct drug testing for fentanyl and other drugs while equipping service users with harm reduction supplies.



Fourcast, in collaboration with the Peterborough Drug Strategy, Peterborough Public Health and other local agencies, will be providing ongoing updates about the CTS and related issues as they work towards the opening of the facility.

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