

Appendix A to Report No. 054-17

Key Items Addressed to Enhance Response to the Community Drug Crisis

- A communications plan is being developed, one component of which is the creation of a distribution list of over 150 community partners who will receive updates about the MLHU's opioid overdose work.
- Public consultation on supervised consumption facilities are launching mid-October. Maria Sanchez-Keane, from the Centre for Organizational Effectiveness, will assist in the consultation process, which will include coordinating focus groups and a survey on supervised consumption facilities in order to seek a federal exemption, maximize engagement and allow for a transparent, unbiased process. The total cost of the consultations will be at most \$30,000, of which \$20,000 will be paid funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, as explained in Report [026-17FFC](#). Additional costs for this work, including the external consultant's costs and room bookings (up to \$15,000) have been referred to the Health Unit's Q3 variance process.
- MLHU has secured Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) funding for up to \$250,000 to support planning, preparation and deployment activities for the Harm Reduction Program Enhancement. In the absence of additional inflationary funding for the Health Unit, this will mainly cover opioid-related work already being conducted.
- Policy supports are being developed for supervised consumption facilities. Public health units in Toronto and Ottawa, where successful applications have gone forward, are assisting by sharing policies and procedures to ensure that our federal exemption application meets all the requirements.
- On September 19, the MOHLTC established a provincial funding program for supervised injection services (SIS), subject to receipt of the appropriate federal exemption.
- On September 18, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) gave a presentation to the London City Council's Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC) on the opioid crisis in London. SPPC endorsed the creation of an Opioid Crisis Working Group under the leadership of the MOH. This group includes several key partners, such as London Police Services and the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), as well as harm reduction agencies in the region.
- In August 2017, the MOHLTC expanded the naloxone program, with the Health Unit acting as a naloxone distribution hub for eligible community organizations, increasing dissemination of kits to those most at risk of opioid overdose. Since the end of August, thirteen presentations on naloxone have been given, 213 personnel have been trained and eighty-four kits have been distributed.
- Dr. Hovhannisyan is leading the opioid surveillance effort in cooperation with key MLHU staff, as well as EMS, police, hospitals, the MOHLTC and other health-sector partners.