



February 24, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Provincial Funding for Consumption and Treatment Services

At its meeting on February 16, 2023, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #11-23:

WHEREAS as recognized by motion [14-21](#), Sudbury and districts continue to experience an opioid crisis with the second highest opioid-related death rate in Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards require boards of health to collaborate with health and social service partners to develop programs and services to reduce the burdens associated with substance use; and

WHEREAS evidence shows that supervised consumption sites, as a harm reduction strategy, reduce overdose deaths, increase access to treatment and other health and social services, reduce transmission of infectious diseases, including HIV and Hepatitis C, reduce public injection of drugs, and reduce publicly discarded hazardous syringes; and

WHEREAS the provincial application for approval and funding for Sudbury's Consumption and Treatment Services was submitted in August 2021 and the application remains under review; and

WHEREAS Réseau Access Network received the required federal exemption and has been operating Sudbury's supervised consumption services site since September 2022 with temporary operating funds provided by the City of Greater Sudbury; and

WHEREAS there is uncertainty about the future of supervised consumption services in Sudbury given the temporary nature of current municipal funding and the outstanding provincial application;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health reaffirm motion [14-21](#), sounding the alarm on the local and regional opioid crisis – a crisis that has continued to intensify since 2021; and

THAT the Board of Health urge the provincial government to immediately approve funding for the Sudbury supervised consumption services site, operating as a Consumption and Treatment Services site under the Ontario model; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be shared with relevant federal and provincial government ministers, area members of parliament and provincial parliament, local municipal leadership, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and boards of health.

The worsening drug poisoning crisis in our community requires concerted efforts on behalf of many partners. The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts is looking to the provincial government as one of these key partners.

In addition to the primary goal of saving lives, Consumption and Treatment Services decrease health care pressures by reducing emergency services and hospital utilization and decreasing the transmission of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C. They also facilitate referral to treatment for substance use and early treatment for other health concerns. Consumption and Treatment Services are an investment into the health of those that use the services and the health of our health care system.

The Board urges the provincial government to immediately approve and fund Sudbury's Consumption and Treatment Services site.

Thank you for your urgent and positive consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health of Canada
Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Associate Minister, Mental Health and Addictions
Honourable Gwen Boniface, Order of Ontario, Senator
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Marc G. Serré, Member of Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Paul Lefebvre, Mayor, City of Greater Sudbury
All Ontario Boards of Health