



City of Hamilton
BOARD OF HEALTH
REVISED

Meeting #: 23-002
Date: February 13, 2023
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chambers (BOH)
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Matt Gauthier, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 6437

1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 January 16, 2023

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Correspondence from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), respecting Program Update and Speaker Line-Up for the aLPHa Winter Symposium and Section Meetings

Recommendation: Be received.

*5.2 Correspondence from John Sudak respecting a Consumption and Treatment Services Site at 746 Barton Street, Hamilton.

Recommendation: Be received.

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 6.1 Steven Roman Soos, respecting Declaring a State of Emergency for Opioid Overdoses and Death in the City of Hamilton (for today's meeting)
- 6.2 Tim McClemon, The AIDS Network, respecting Support for the AIDS Network's Application to Operate a Proposed Consumption Treatment Services Program at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton (for today's meeting)
- 6.3 Olivia Mancini, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, respecting Safer Use Spaces in Shelters (for today's meeting)
- 6.4 Marcie McIlveen, Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT), respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (for today's meeting)
- 6.5 Kim Ritchie, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition: Harm Reduction Working Group, respecting the Prevention of Overdose Related Deaths for those Experiencing Homelessness (for today's meeting)
- *6.6 Daniel Freiheit, respecting the Prevention of Future Emergency Declarations Regarding the Opioid Crisis in Hamilton (for today's meeting)
- *6.7 Dr. Claire Bodkin, HAMSMaRT respecting Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site (for today's meeting)
- *6.8 Scott Gervais, respecting Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton Shelters (for today's meeting)
- *6.9 Walter Furlan, respecting Opposition to the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site (for today's meeting)

7. DELEGATIONS

8. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

- 8.1 Board of Health Governance Education Session (to be distributed)
- 8.2 Respiratory Diseases Update

9. CONSENT ITEMS

- 9.1 Consumption and Treatment Services Site Application Process (BOH23007) (City Wide)
- 9.2 Opioid Emergency Response (BOH23008) (City Wide)
- *9.3 Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 23-001 - February 10, 2023

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 10.1 Substance Use and Addiction Program Funding - Harm Reduction Outreach Project (BOH23006) (City Wide)

11. MOTIONS

- 11.1 Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

- 13.1 Amendments to the Outstanding Business List:

- a. Items Requiring New Due Dates

- a. Municipal Actions to Reduce Harms Associated with Alcohol Use (BOH19032)

- OBL Item: 2019-V

- Current Due Date: On Hold Due to COVID-19

- Proposed New Due Date: July 2023

- b. Child & Adolescent Services 2021-2022 Budget and Base Funding Increase of Five Percent (BOH21010) (City Wide)

- OBL Item: 2021-G

- Current Due Date: On Hold Due to COVID-19

- Proposed New Due Date: April 2023

- b. Items Considered Complete and Needing to be Removed:

- a. Consumption and Treatment Services and Wesley Day Centre (Referred to the Board of Health from the Emergency and Community Services Committee on June 19, 2020)

- OBL Item: 2020-I

- Date Added: June 19, 2020 (E&CS 19-014 Item (h) (i))

- Date Completed:

- b. Correspondence from Anita Dubeau, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, respecting a Response to the Opioid Crisis in Simcoe Muskoka and Ontario-wide

OBL Item: 2022-D

Date Added: April 4, 2022 (BOH 22-004 (Item 5.1))

A Letter of Endorsement was Sent

- c. Correspondence from the Timiskaming Health Unit respecting Decriminalization of Personal Possession of Illicit Drugs

OBL Item: 2022-F

Date Added: August 10, 2022 (BOH 22-008 (Item 5.2))

A Letter of Endorsement was Sent

- d. Respiratory Diseases Update

OBL Item: 2022-G

Date Added: November 28, 2022 (BOH Report 22-010 - Item (f)(ii))

Date Completed: January 16, 2023 (BOH Report 23-001 - Item 2)

- e. Opioid Emergency Response

OBL Item: 2023-A

Date Added: January 12, 2023 - Special GIC Report 23-002 (Item 1(a))

Date Completed: Addressed as Item 9.2 on Today's Board of Health Agenda

14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

15. ADJOURNMENT



BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES 23-001

9:30 a.m.

Monday, January 16, 2023

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor A. Horwath (Chair)
Councillor M. Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, B. Clark, J.P. Danko, M. Francis,
T. Hwang, T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, N. Nann, T. McMeekin, E.
Pauls, M. Spadafora, M. Tadeson, A. Wilson

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. **Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities (BOH23002) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)**

(Hwang/Nann)

That Report BOH23002, respecting the Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

2. Pharmacies and Spatial Mapping: Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccinations (BOH23004) (City Wide) (Item 9.1)

(A. Wilson/Tadeson)

That Report BOH23004, respecting Pharmacies and Spatial Mapping: Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccinations, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
ABSENT	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

3. Cold Alert Thresholds and Response Process (BOH23005) (City Wide) (Item 9.2)

(Nann/A. Wilson)

That Report BOH23005, respecting Cold Alert Thresholds and Response Process, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 12 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
ABSENT	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14

YES - Tadeson, Mark Ward 11
YES - Wilson, Alex Ward 13
YES - Wilson, Maureen Ward 1

4. Ministry of Health Funding and Accountability Report: 2021 Annual Report and Attestation (BOH23001) (City Wide) (Item 10.1)

(Nann/Clark)

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to submit the 2021 Annual Report and Attestation to the Ministry of Health in keeping with the information outlined in Board of Health Report BOH23001.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

YES - Mayor Andrea Horwath
YES - Beattie, Jeff Ward 10
YES - Cassar, Craig Ward 12
YES - Clark, Brad Ward 9
ABSENT - Danko, J.P. Ward 8
YES - Francis, Matt Ward 5
ABSENT - Hwang, Tammy Ward 4
YES - Kroetsch, Cameron Ward 2
ABSENT - Jackson, Tom Ward 6
YES - Nann, Nrinder Ward 3
YES - McMeekin, Ted Ward 15
ABSENT - Pauls, Esther Ward 7
ABSENT - Spadafora, Mike Ward 14
YES - Tadeson, Mark Ward 11
YES - Wilson, Alex Ward 13
YES - Wilson, Maureen Ward 1

5. Appointment of an Associate Medical Officer of Health (BOH23003) (City Wide) (Item 14.1)

(Clark/Nann)

- (a) That the direction to staff respecting Report BOH23003, Appointment of an Associate Medical Officer of Health, be approved; and,
- (b) That Report BOH23003, respecting the Appointment of an Associate Medical Officer of Health, remain confidential until approved by Council.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 10 to 1, as follows:

YES - Mayor Andrea Horwath
YES - Beattie, Jeff Ward 10
YES - Cassar, Craig Ward 12
YES - Clark, Brad Ward 9

ABSENT	- Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
NO	- Francis, Matt	Ward 5
ABSENT	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	- Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	- McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	- Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	- Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	- Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised the Board of the following changes to the agenda:

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.3 Correspondence from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha), respecting 2023 Budget Consultations

Recommendation: Be received.

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- 6.1 Delegations respecting Item 8.1 – Report BOH23002, Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities

6.1.a. Kojo Dampthey, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

6.1.b. Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre

(Tadeson/A. Wilson)

That the agenda for the January 16, 2023 Board of Health be approved, as amended.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

YES	- Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	- Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	- Clark, Brad	Ward 9
ABSENT	- Danko, J.P.	Ward 8

YES	- Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	- Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	- McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	- Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	- Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	- Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(i) November 28, 2022 (Item 4.1)

(Hwang/Cassar)

That the Minutes of November 28, 2022 meeting of the Board of Health be approved, as presented.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

YES	- Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	- Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	- Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	- Clark, Brad	Ward 9
ABSENT	- Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	- Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	- Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	- McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	- Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	- Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	- Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)

(i) (Hwang/M. Wilson)

That the following items be approved, as presented:

- (a) Correspondence from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), respecting Governance Toolkit for Ontario Boards of Health (Item 5.1)

Recommendation: Be received

- (b) Correspondence from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, respecting Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children (Item 5.2)

Recommendation: Be received

- (c) Correspondence from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), respecting 2023 Budget Consultations (Item 5.3)

Recommendation: Be received

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(ii) (Clark/Cassar)

That Finance staff be directed to review the Daily School Route (DRS) proposal and provide direction on how to initiate that program, as per Item 5.2, Correspondence from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and

Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, respecting Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)

(i) (A. Wilson/Hwang)

That the following delegation requests respecting Item 8.1, Report BOH32002, Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities, be approved for the January 16, 2023 Board of Health meeting:

- (i) Kojo Dampthey, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Item 6.1 (a))
- (ii) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (Item 6.1 (b))

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6

YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)

(i) Delegations respecting Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities (BOH23002) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

The following Delegations addressed the Board:

- (i) Kojo Dampsey, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Item 7.1)
- (ii) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (Item 7.2)

(Hwang/A. Wilson)

That the following delegations respecting Item 8.1, Report BOH32002, Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities, be received:

- (i) Kojo Dampsey, Executive Director, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (Item 7.1)
- (ii) Lyndon George, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (Item 7.2)

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
YES	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
YES	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13

YES - Wilson, Maureen Ward 1

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 1.

(g) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)

(i) Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities (BOH23002) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

Dr. Richardson, Medical Officer of Health, Kevin McDonald, Director, Healthy Environments, Jen Vickers-Manzin, Director, Healthy Families, and Julie Prieto, Director, Epidemiology & Wellness, addressed the Board with a presentation respecting Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities.

(Danko/Beattie)

That the Presentation respecting Board of Health Orientation Part 2: Population Health Assessment and Public Health Priorities (BOH23002), be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
YES	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
YES	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 1.

(ii) Respiratory Diseases Update (Item 8.2)

Kevin McDonald, Director, Communicable Disease Control, addressed the Board with a presentation respecting a Respiratory Diseases Update.

(Kroetsch/A. Wilson)

That the Respiratory Diseases Update, be received.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
ABSENT	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
YES	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8
YES	-	Francis, Matt	Ward 5
ABSENT	-	Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	-	Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	-	Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	-	Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	-	McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	-	Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	-	Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	-	Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	-	Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	-	Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

(h) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)

**(i) Appointment of an Associate Medical Officer of Health (BOH23003)
(City Wide) (Item 14.1)**

The Board determined that discussion of Item 14.1 was not required in Closed Session.

For disposition of this matter, please refer to Item 5.

(i) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

(Clark/Tadeson)

That, there being no further business, the Board of Health be adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Result: Motion CARRIED by a vote of 11 to 0, as follows:

YES	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
YES	-	Beattie, Jeff	Ward 10
YES	-	Cassar, Craig	Ward 12
YES	-	Clark, Brad	Ward 9
ABSENT	-	Danko, J.P.	Ward 8

YES	- Francis, Matt	Ward 5
ABSENT	- Hwang, Tammy	Ward 4
YES	- Kroetsch, Cameron	Ward 2
ABSENT	- Jackson, Tom	Ward 6
YES	- Nann, Nrinder	Ward 3
YES	- McMeekin, Ted	Ward 15
ABSENT	- Pauls, Esther	Ward 7
ABSENT	- Spadafora, Mike	Ward 14
YES	- Tadeson, Mark	Ward 11
YES	- Wilson, Alex	Ward 13
YES	- Wilson, Maureen	Ward 1

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Andrea Horwath,
Chair, Board of Health

Matt Gauthier
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

From: [allhealthunits](#) on behalf of [Loretta Ryan](#)
To: "All Health Units"
Cc: [Board](#)
Subject: [allhealthunits] Program Update and Speaker Line-Up for the alPHa Winter Symposium and Section Meetings
Date: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:25:13 AM

PLEASE ROUTE TO:

All Board of Health Members
All Members of Regional Health & Social Service Committees
All Senior Public Health Managers

Dear alPHa Members,

Have you registered yet for the [Association of Local Public Health Agencies \(alPHa\) Winter Symposium and Section Meetings](#) that are taking place on February 24th? All alPHa members are encouraged to participate.

The Winter Symposium will continue the important conversation on the role of local public health in the province's Public Health System. Highlights include greetings from the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada; Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Allan O'Dette, President & CEO, Ontario Medical Association; and Steini Brown, Dean, Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

Plenary Sessions also have an exciting line-up of speakers who will be discussing key issues related to public health. Speakers include: Dr. Christopher Simpson, Executive Vice-President, Medical, Ontario Health; Provincial Constable Wendi Hughes, Ontario Provincial Police - East Region Liaison; Michael Sherar, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario; Brendan Smith, Scientist, Public Health Ontario; Roman Pabayo, Associate Professor, University of Alberta; Naomi Schwartz, Epidemiologist Lead, Public Health Ontario; Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education; and Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Throughout the day we will also be featuring alPHa Board members: Trudy Sachowski, President; Carmen McGregor, Chair, Boards of Health Section; Dr. Eileen de Villa, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health; Paul Sharma, Affiliate Representative; Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Vice-Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health; Dr. Charles Gardner, Vice-President; and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Past-President.

Registration information, the draft Symposium program, the draft agenda for the BOH Section meeting, and the event flyer can be accessed by going to the [alPHa website](#) and clicking on the Symposium Banner or by going to the [event page](#). This webpage is also where any updates will be posted. The closing date to register has been revised to Tuesday, February 21st at 5 pm to take into account Family Day. Please note that you must be an alPHa member to participate in the Symposium or Section meetings. All registrants will receive login information prior to the event.

If you are a BOH Section or Affiliate member and are registered for the Symposium, you may also attend the [Pre-Symposium Workshop: Road 2 Mental Readiness \(R2MR\)](#) on February 23, 2023. The

workshop was developed in collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces for public health leaders and is based on a cycle that entails preparation, performance, and recovery. Please note, if you are a BOH or Affiliate attendee, you do not need to separately register for this workshop. (COMOH members, this is the R2MR workshop you participated in on November 18, 2022. If you are a COMOH member, missed the original session, and want to participate, you can contact Melanie Dziengo at communications@alphaweb.org.)

Thank you to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for co-hosting the event and to the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health for their generous support.

We hope to see you online on Friday, February 24th!

Take Care,

Loretta

Loretta Ryan, CAE, RPP

Executive Director

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)

480 University Avenue, Suite 300

Toronto, ON M5G 1V2

Tel: 416-595-0006 ext. 222

Cell: 647-325-9594

loretta@alphaweb.org

www.alphaweb.org



You need to be more transparent!!

Dear members of the Hamilton Board of Health,

I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the proposed CTS at 746 Barton St. East. I live on Sherman Ave. North in the house that my Great Great Grandmother Anna Bielakiewicz bought for my Grandparents around 1927. Our family has roots in this neighbourhood!

First, the TAN proposal does not follow provincial guidelines. It is less than 200 metres from St. Ann's elementary school. There has been no community consultation. I would like to remind you that consultation does not mean information.

Many children walk passed this building on their ways to St. Ann's as well as nearby Prince of Wales elementary and Bernie Custis secondary schools. This proposed CYS is two doors away from the African Caribbean Cultural Center which offers programs for youth and seniors as well as other social activities. It is also four doors away from the LUSO operated ECHO building which offers various programs for adults with exceptionalities. These young people travel on Barton St. to activities and wait for transportation outside the building. This proposed site is near three churches, Holy Spirit, St. Stan's and St. Ann's. Holy Spirit offers Saturday Ukrainian language school. Both Holy Spirit and St. Stan's provide various other programs for youth and seniors. Many children, youth and seniors will walk past this proposed site on their ways to school, church and activities and they will be at risk.

While supporters of CTSs claim that they do not cause harm to residents who live nearby, one only had to recall the situation around the Urban Core Rebecca St. site. I saw it firsthand because my dentist's office is two blocks away. Today, one just has to walk or drive in the area around the YWCA CTS site to see the negative effect on that neighbourhood.

As members of the Board of Health, you represent ALL Hamiltonians and must make decisions that keep everyone safe and healthy and not just to please lobby groups. A CTS at 746 Barton St. will not do that!

John Sudak



From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: January 26, 2023 4:55 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Thu, 01/26/2023 - 16:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

Emergency & Community Services Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Steven Roman Soos



Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

In support of Hamilton Mayor, Andrea Horwath declaring a state of emergency for opioid overdoses and deaths for the City of Hamilton

I have been advocating for a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness and addiction for four years, since 2019.

My entire extended family lives in the City of Hamilton.

I have the support of the PC Caucus and the ONDP caucus for declaring the emergency in Niagara.

I would like to walk City of Hamilton through the process, the benefits of the state of emergency, and what it would look like and how it would all come together.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: February 1, 2023 4:01 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Wed, 02/01/2023 - 16:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Tim McClemont
The AIDS Network
140 King Street East
Suite 101
Hamilton, ON. L8P 1V4
ed@aidsnetwork.ca
905 528-0854 ext. 229

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
To seek Board of Health resolution that supports The AIDS Network's application to the Ministry of Health to operate a proposed Consumption Treatment Services program located at 746 Barton Street East in the City of Hamilton.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

The AIDS Network

Consumption Treatment Services (CTS)

Community Engagement Summary

Proposed site 746 Barton Street East

March/April 2021

Consultation with surrounding organizations that have undergone CTS application process and currently operate sites.

June 2021

Initial consultation with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care regarding possible location and next steps.

August 2021

Meeting with Councillor Nrinder Nann to discuss proposed CTS in Ward 3.

Launched communication tools for people to engage with us directly (cts@aidsnetwork.ca)

Launched online survey for people with history of substance use and an online survey for Ward 3 community members.

September 2021 and ongoing

Social media campaign – Frequently Asked Questions about Consumption and Treatment Sites
Community outreach with mailbox drops in residences and visits with local businesses near 746 Barton Street East.

October 2021

Live community discussion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9shxtCtXMTg>

Board of Health meeting to discuss municipal support.

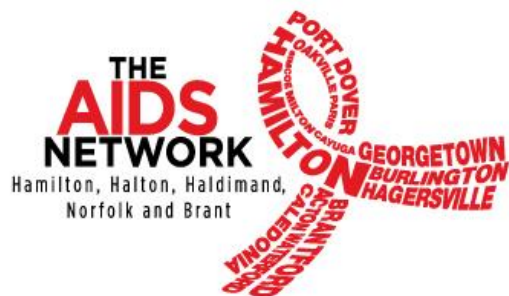
In-person community discussions with local groups and organizations.

November/December 2021

Launch of online survey for ongoing community engagement

April 2022

Follow up with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Application continues to be under review.



Community **Mitigation Strategies** and **Ongoing Engagement** for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site at 746 Barton Street East

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- 1. Community Safety**
- 2. Access to Wrap Around Services**
- 3. Ongoing Community Engagement**
- 4. Education and Awareness**
- 5. Direct Outreach**
- 6. Program Evaluation and Report Back**

INTRODUCTION

This report is an expansion of our *Community Consultation and Engagement Report for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site in Hamilton's Ward 3 – November 2021*.

Some of the information contained within this expanded report also appears in our more comprehensive community engagement report, however some strategies have been expanded to include additional planning processes, proactive actionable strategies, and existing methods currently being implemented throughout our existing programming.

This report demonstrates our thoughtful commitment to the ongoing engagement of the community and the ways in which we will mitigate community concerns. We have developed these strategies and considerations based on our own consultation processes, as well as through the on-going consultations with other CTS sites including Urban Core – Hamilton, Positive Living Niagara – St. Catharines, the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection – London, as well as general consultation with the Ontario Harm Reduction Network (OHRN).

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

1. Community Safety

Safety considerations have been made in the best interest of the general community around the proposed location as well as people accessing services at the space. The proposed model of staffing includes peer engagement roles that will be responsible for engaging with people in and out of the space to help navigate group dynamics among service users and other community members. These roles will also be an integral part in planning for ongoing community engagement, education and awareness activities, and program evaluation to ensure that the voice of people with lived experiences is central to service delivery and implementation.

Practical safety considerations are also reflected in the proposed budget with the installation of security cameras and third-party security staffing. This will ensure that the site is accountable to community and being proactive to mitigate any safety concerns and concerns about increased police presence in the area.

As part of the daily work at the CTS, regular community walk-arounds will be conducted outside of the building and in the surrounding areas. These combined approaches will ensure that any safety concerns that may arise are monitored and addressed in a timely manner with the best interests of our service users and the broader community as paramount.

We understand through our community consultation that fear of safety issues is central within the opposition to a CTS. We will continue to work with the community to understand the stigma that is often at the root of these fears, and through modelling and engagement, we will demonstrate the ability to increase access to safety for all members of our community.

2. Access to Wraparound Services

The vision for this site is to create a centre with life saving overdose response and daily on-site services with organizations and groups that work from a harm reduction framework. To date, we have confirmed commitment from groups and organizations that will provide a variety of weekly on-site supports ranging from peer activities, clinical services including primary care and addiction medicine, Indigenous-based services, mental health supports, and substance use and mental health services for youth. We strongly believe that this model of service is a benefit to the community and will address existing concerns that are present in Ward 3.

3. Ongoing Community Engagement

As part of the community consultation process, The AIDS Network has created mechanisms for community to reach us including a dedicated email address, social media channels, and online surveys.

These will continue and be expanded on as part of an ongoing community engagement plan.

Our initial surveys will be closed at the time of this report, and we will open a second round of surveys that will act as an ongoing engagement tool for people to provide

feedback to inform program implementation and ongoing improvement. These surveys will remain.

Our existing and ongoing community engagement centres around increasing access points for both receiving and sharing the most relevant and timely information available at all times. Our education and community engagement work is directly informed by the community to ensure that community needs are being met and gaps are being addressed in a meaningful way.

We have continued to build upon existing outreach opportunities across Hamilton and Ward 3 specifically, drawing upon our current models of practice, we will have the capacity to increase our education and capacity building work with local businesses, community members, groups, organizations and People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)

Currently The AIDS Network has a Harm Reduction Outreach Worker who provides Harm Reduction education and support across Hamilton, as well as at locations within Ward 3 such as the Hamilton Public Library at 571 Barton Street East and The Sex Workers Action Project (SWAP), now located at 771 Barton St East. The existing relationships and initiatives within these spaces and other outreach locations will support to expand the access points available to collect and disseminate information specific to the proposed CTS for the purposes of reporting and coordination of these engagement strategies

We will build in mechanisms to continue to collect feedback from people accessing services to not only improve their overall experiences, but so that we may understand what they are experiencing in the community and the area surrounding the proposed CTS site which we will work to address. We will do this through the development of a service user advisory committee, as well as client surveys, and questionnaires made available on-site for service users accessing the space. This information will also be shared with community partners to ensure that they understand and may adapt to unique needs of people accessing supports within a CTS and within Ward 3

We believe that using our existing resources to provide key messaging around trends that we are seeing as they impact specific communities is also important to identify target populations who may be disproportionately impacted, such as within our existing ACB, WHAI, Harm Reduction, and GBMSM programming.

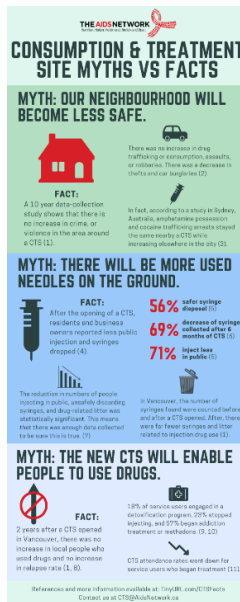
We will host quarterly open houses for the public to provide opportunities for community members, potential service users, businesses, and service providers to better understand Community and Treatment Services and our direct models of service. This will include opportunities for all community partners and peer representatives

involved within the space to provide information about the services that they are offering and insights into the populations that they serve and work alongside and to continue to build trust within the community.

4. Education and Awareness

With our organization’s history in harm reduction programming, it is within our existing funding mandate to provide community capacity building and education related to harm reduction. In collaboration with community partners, there are plans being made to host an online panel discussion with representatives from the medical community, Disability Justice Network Ontario, and people with lived experiences as speakers.

Further to that we will continue to develop educational materials and resource materials by print and for digital sharing.



Understanding that there can be a digital divide, there have been some great suggestions made through engaging with residents in Ward 3 including flyer mail outs and engagement at community events. We have connected with a resident who helps plan activities at Lucy Day Park which is approximately 300 meters from our proposed

location. This resident was very receptive to inviting us to activities at the park to share information and build relationships.

Similar to our aforementioned community engagement strategies, Education and Awareness is a key component to our existing outreach and community development work. Our current Harm Reduction staff frequently provide education and training to service providers, community members, business, colleges, and universities across all of the regions that we serve (Hamilton, Halton, Haldimand, Norfolk, and Brant).

We will have the opportunity to hold regular meetings with both TAN staff and CTS staff to share information about what is happening both inside and outside of the CTS, Ward 3, and across the broader Hamilton Community. This collaborative approach provides a unique opportunity to enhance the knowledge of the community, as well the staff who engage in this work.

Existing TAN Directors, Management, and Staff sit on various coordinating committees, community drug strategies, planning committees, and various tables across the regions which allows us to increase awareness of what is happening within the communities, what issues or challenges may be present, and work with other community organizations, peers, community members, to work collaboratively to identify areas for increased education and awareness. We continue to build these activities into our Ministry work planning and prioritize events that increase awareness and education such as International Overdose Awareness Day, community forums, panel discussions, webinars, presentations, outreach activities, and other community events as they are identified.

When we were conducting our community consultations, one organizations we met with, the Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton (ACCA), expressed concern regarding the lack of specific consideration for the potential impact on ACCA members and the Black community members who may experience increased surveillance and policing in the immediate area of the CTS.

We will continue to work with our existing partners and look to develop new partnerships with organizations such ACCA, to increase education and support for ACB and BIPOC within the Hamilton community. We will work together to address the complex needs of BIPOC people who use drugs, including issues related to racism, colonization, criminalization, surveillance, and trauma. Partners include, but are not limited to, the and Caribbean Council of HIV/AIDS of Ontario (ACCHO), The Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI), Hamilton Community Urban Core's Black Health Team, and De dwe da nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre.

5. Program Evaluation and Report Back

Using surveys and discussion groups, ongoing feedback will be received for program evaluation and program planning. This will align with our current priorities of ensuring effectiveness and quality programming to inform ongoing service delivery.

To create space for a diversity of interests and voices, an advisory committee will be established to meet on a regular basis. This will represent key stakeholders of the CTS including on-site wraparound service providers, local resident and business representatives, people with lived experiences with substance use, and people who may be misrepresented in the provision of harm reduction services.

Report back to community will include monthly data sharing and semi-annual community reports including both qualitative and quantitative information.

As mentioned, we sit on multiple committees and regular community meetings each month. In Hamilton and Brantford, we are actively involved in Drug Strategy committees and chairing working groups, which include members of local government and police services. We attend monthly Community Partnership Meetings with Hamilton Urban Core's CTS site, which is attended by a number of community service providers, church members, neighbours, peers, social navigators, emergency services, and public health service providers. We believe that these existing mechanisms for disseminating information will be invaluable as we undertake this new CTS.

In some of our initial community consultation meetings, we had proposed the opportunity of developing advisory committees, which would include concerned member of the community. The feedback that we received at that time was that the concerned members of the community did not feel that their time should be sent on such efforts. Still, we believe that providing such spaces wherein people may engage in the development and processes of evaluation, reporting, providing timely feedback, and addressing concerns should they arise are extremely important and continues to be a priority within our ongoing engagement plan

We will develop a weekly newsletter, which will be available through our website and existing social media accounts (including website, Facebook, Instagram, twitter) and in print, which will provide regular updates, report on trends identified within the community, provide information on community events, and opportunities for increased engagement.

Our existing relationships with the community and community stakeholders, as well as with those who are eager to support our proposed CTS will allow us to ensure a consistent and ongoing flow of information and reporting directly back into the community, as well as add increased accountability to funders, stakeholders, and all members of the community.

The AIDS Network

Application to Ministry of Health Operation of Consumption Treatment Services (CTS)

746 Barton Street East, Hamilton, ON

Letters of Support

1. Hamilton Health Sciences
2. St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton – Mental Health and Addiction Program
3. Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative
4. Hamilton Public Library
5. Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre
6. Hamilton Trans Health Coalition
7. Vintage Coffee Roasters
8. Good Shepherd Centres
9. Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
10. John Howard Society of Hamilton, Burlington, and Area
11. Grenfell Ministries
12. Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice
13. De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
14. Dr. Shawn Mondoux, Quality and Safety Lead, St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
15. Dr. Greg Rutledge, Chief of Emergency Medicine, St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
16. Dr. Jill Wiwcharuk
17. Canadian Mental Health Association, Hamilton
18. Shelter Health Network
19. Keeping Six
20. Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT)
21. Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
22. Alternatives for Youth
23. Greater Hamilton Health Network
24. The Move Room
25. Mikey's Cream Pies
26. Hamilton Police Services
27. Barton Village Business Improvement Area
28. Rhineland Web Development
29. Fischerwool / Peppler Sock Co.
30. The Generator – Social Media Marketing
31. Helping Hands Street Mission
32. Maipai
33. Over 40 letters of support from Ward 3 residents

Address Locator 0300B
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

2023-02-01

HC6-53-139-87

Karyn Cooper
Director, Programs and Services
The AIDS Network
140 King St E
Hamilton ON L8N 1B2

Karyn Cooper:

This letter is to acknowledge the receipt of The AIDS Network CTS application for a section 56.1 exemption for medical purposes under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA) regarding activities at a supervised consumption site.

Health Canada is committed to working collaboratively with you during all stages of the supervised consumption site application process. In order to help understand the process, guidance can be found on the Government of Canada's website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/supervised-consumption-sites/apply.html>. During the course of the stages of screening, reviewing, and taking a decision on your application, Health Canada may contact you to request clarification or additional information where needed.

It is possible for Health Canada to issue an exemption before the site is fully retrofitted. However, in such circumstances, the exemption would contain terms and conditions requiring that the site be visited in order to confirm that the site has been constructed according to the plans reviewed and approved by Health Canada.

Following our Office's initial screening, we are pleased to inform you that the application contains sufficient information for our Office to begin its review.

There is a very large body of literature on supervised consumption sites. Based on these reviews, properly established and maintained supervised consumption sites save lives. We are committed to reviewing supervised consumption site applications as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or regarding any of the requirements, our Office is always available to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact us at exemption@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Bergevin, Viviane
I am approving this document
your signing location here
2023.01.30 09:28:46-05'00'

Viviane Bergevin
Manager
Exemptions Section
Authorizations Division
Office of Controlled Substances

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: February 1, 2023 10:23 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Wed, 02/01/2023 - 22:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Olivia Mancini
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Councillor Wilson will be submitting a motion for safer use spaces in shelters. I plan to delegate on the dire need for safer use spaces in shelter given 5 suspected drug poisoning deaths at Salvation Army Booth Centre from October 2022 to December 2022. Thank you.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: ECS Delegation MCLIVEEN Hamsart safe use in shelter and cts
Date: Monday, January 16, 2023 3:43:30 PM

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: January 16, 2023 3:36 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

Submitted on Mon, 01/16/2023 - 15:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Marcie McIlveen
Hamsart

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Talk about safe use in shelter and need for second cts

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

The sender designated this message as non-commercial mandatory content with the following note:

[Change communication preferences](#)

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, L8P 4Y5, ON
Canada

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>

Sent: February 7, 2023 12:24 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Tue, 02/07/2023 - 12:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Kim Ritchie

Canadian Drug Policy Coalition: Harm Reduction Working Group

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

The rationale for the delegation request is simplistic, to prevent death from overdose for those already experiencing the hardships of homelessness. We are collectively navigating housing, drug poisoning, and the pandemic. Our most vulnerable communities have suffered some of the most abhorrent forms of dehumanization over the last few years. Especially those experiencing a lack of housing and struggling with substance dependency. As we see COVID funding being slowly eroded from our public health and social service sector, we're witnessing an unprecedented number of overdoses within the Hamilton shelter system. All these deaths are preventable as substance dependency needs to be met with pragmatic and coordinated solutions, which are available. As an advocate of harm reduction, I hope to delegate to the Board of Health regarding these challenges.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: Delegation BOH re opioid emergency February 14.
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:59:53 AM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City Clerk's Office, Corporate Services
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

City Hall is located on the ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe and many other Indigenous peoples. It is also covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement, which asks that all sharing this territory do so respectfully and sustainably in community.

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: February 8, 2023 11:54 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

Submitted on Wed, 02/08/2023 - 23:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Daniel Freiheit

Lion Advocacy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request

Suggestions on how to address and prevent future emergency declarations regarding the opioid crisis in Hamilton.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

The sender designated this message as non-commercial mandatory content with the following note:

[Change communication preferences](#)

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, L8P 4Y5, ON
Canada

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: Delegation BODKIN HAMSMaRT re Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 8:34:23 AM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City Clerk's Office, Corporate Services

City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

City Hall is located on the ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe and many other Indigenous peoples. It is also covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement, which asks that all sharing this territory do so respectfully and sustainably in community.

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: February 9, 2023 7:57 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Unsubscribe

It appears that you have subscribed to commercial messages from this sender. To stop receiving such messages from this sender, please [unsubscribe](#)

Submitted on Thu, 02/09/2023 - 19:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Dr Claire Bodkin

HAMSMaRT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Safe Use in Shelter and the Need for a Second Consumption and Treatment Services Site

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

The sender designated this message as non-commercial mandatory content with the following note:

[Change communication preferences](#)

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, L8P 4Y5, ON
Canada

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:45:44 AM

FYI/Action

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2023 10:28 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Fri, 02/10/2023 - 10:27

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Scott Gervais

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Would like to speak regarding Safe Use Spaces in Hamilton shelters, please.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

The sender designated this message as non-commercial mandatory content with the following note:

[Change communication preferences](#)

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, L8P 4Y5, ON
Canada

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: FW: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 10:46:17 AM

FYI/action

From: City of Hamilton <hello@hamilton.ca>
Sent: February 10, 2023 10:35 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Webform submission from: Request to Speak to a Committee of Council

Submitted on Fri, 02/10/2023 - 10:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Board of Health

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Walter G Furlan

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Opposition to the location of the proposed drug injection clinic.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

The sender designated this message as non-commercial mandatory content with the following note:

[Change communication preferences](#)

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, L8P 4Y5, ON
Canada

Community Opposition to Proposed Consumption Site at 746 Barton Street
East
Petition and Correspondence Package
Board of Health
February 13, 2023

The petition is a duplicate that appears on the December 15, 2021 Council Agenda.

The correspondence packages are duplicates that appear on the Board of Health agenda for November 15, 2021, and Council on November 24, 2021 and December 15, 2021.

A copy of the petition can be viewed in-person, at the Clerk's Office

Please see the following agendas for reference to the correspondence and the petition in this package:

[Board of Health, November 15, 2021](#) Item 5.4

[Council, November 24, 2021](#) Item 5.1

[Council, December 15, 2021](#) Item 4.7

**COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CONSUMPTION SITE
AT 746 BARTON STREET EAST, HAMILTON
September 26, 2022**

To:

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister
Ministry of Health
College Park 5th Flr
777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Enclosures:

- Briefing package, including a Community Snapshot of nearby amenities and summarizing community opposition in specific context of the Provincial Ministry of Health Consumption Treatment Site (CTS) funding program.
- Letters of opposition from individuals, agencies, churches and business in the immediate vicinity of the proposed location
- Petitions of opposition, with signatures numbering approximately 1,200+ at the time of this mailing.

Submitted by:

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval, for the neighbours and business on Barton

Dear Minister Jones,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2021, The AIDS Network (TAN) was endorsed by Hamilton's Board of Health (BoH) to pursue an injection site "anywhere" in Ward 3, Hamilton. At the time of the endorsement, the BoH was aware of the site's address at 746 Barton St. East, yet no questions were asked about the appropriateness of the location, whether community consultation had taken place, or its proximity to vulnerable populations. It appears **no vetting or screening** of the location was undertaken by the BoH at all.

In fact, the address was **purposefully kept secret** from the community until it was approved by the City, **no community consultation was undertaken** and it is in **very close proximity (less than 200m) to multiple vulnerable populations**, including school and pre-school aged children (schools and day-cares), people with a disability and seniors.

The City of Hamilton failed in its responsibility to vet the site prior to approval of the location, in contrast to communities such as Cambridge and Barrie who have undergone extensive reviews of potential injection sites that has included robust community consultation. Ward 3 councillor Nann stated to our community group that the City has **no influence** in the eventual CTS location. At the time of their announcement last year, TAN stated publicly that they intended to submit the full application within 2 weeks. We are now approaching the 1-year anniversary of the city's endorsement of TAN's pursuit of an injection clinic but the application does not seem to have moved forward at all. No community consultation has taken place.

Step 2 in the 3-step¹ CTS approval process is a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. TAN has failed to begin the basic consultation with the community. They have also failed to (i) Make a case for the need of this service based on the number of drug-related overdoses and deaths in local area – Hamilton Public Health's own data shows the greatest need is downtown; (ii) Intended health and safety impact of site on target population, general public and local area – as mentioned, the proposed location of the injection clinic is very near services for people with a disability, schools, daycares, businesses and adjacent to two residential buildings; (iii) Community Consultation report - This information is gathered to understand the efforts that have been made to engage with the community to inform them of the proposal and ensure that the voices of community members have been heard – this has not yet been done, in fact the proponent has sought to discredit and belittle community members concerns.

We are not against supports for people with addictions, including, where appropriate, injection sites. The current illicit drug crisis is complex and tragic. You will see, however from the material provided herein, that the proposed CTS location at 746 Barton Street East is deficient in many of

¹ Step 3 is funding approval under the provincial Consumption Treatment Site funding program of the Ministry of Health. Of note, an injection clinic may operate if they secure federal approval but fail to get provincial funding.

the federal criteria. It is deficient in many of the provincial funding criteria as well, as laid out in the following pages.

As mentioned, this application has been pending for almost 12 months. We hope that we can count on your support to immediately end consideration of the proposed CTS location² at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. It is an inappropriate location that will fail to meet provincial funding requirements for proximity to vulnerable populations, community consultation and physical layout of the facility (which would require extensive capital improvements to meet basic accessibility, HVAC and other health/building code requirements).

We would be very pleased to provide clarification or discuss this with you at your convenience.

² According to Blaine Bouchard, Manager, Ministry of Health, TAN has submitted a partial application to the CTS funding program.

Community Snapshot



X – 746 Barton Street East, location of proposed CTS. Currently occupied by a restaurant with a lease to May 2023.

1 and 2 - 740 and 748 Barton, occupied residential buildings immediately adjacent to the site, one owned by the resident, the other a rental.

3 - 747 Barton, Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings, boxing and other programming for inner city children, run by a former Olympian.

4 – 752 Barton, African Caribbean Cultural Association – A charity to “facilitate and foster community engagement and empowerment for all members of our community including youth.”

5 – 760 Barton, Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living, a charity providing “a safe, supportive and caring environment for individuals & families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities.”

6 – 15 St Olga (fronts at 730 Barton), **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church**, **the Ukrainian Day School (daycare pending)**, and the reknown **Barvinok Ukrainian School of Dance**, in addition to other community groups/events.

7 – 8 St. Ann St (fronts at ~720 Barton), **St. Stanislaus Polish Church**, hosts various community groups/events.

8 – 15 St. Ann St., **St. Ann Catholic Elementary School**; **St Ann Early Years Centre**

9 – 120 Sherman Av N (fronts at ~686 Barton St.), **St. Ann Catholic Church**, hosts various community groups/events.

10 – 4 Solidarnosc Place, **Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315**

There are also innumerable small, family run businesses and residences in the immediate area.

Also of note, there are:

METHADONE CLINICS at:

- . Vista Addiction Treatment Clinic, **847 Barton St E**
- . The Stiplely Clinic, **707 Barton St E**
- . ACT Methadone Clinic, **664 Barton St E**

MARIJUANA RETAILERS at:

- . Matrix Cannabis Company, **774 Barton St E**
- . Cannabis House Co, **800 Barton St E**
- . And one coming soon to **859 Barton St E**

- Sex Workers Action Program, 771 Barton St. E

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information regarding local conditions, proximity and community opposition with respect to The AIDS Network's (TAN) proposal to operate a CTS at 746 Barton St. E. in Hamilton. This document is the culmination of literally hundreds of hours of research by volunteer resident and business owners who care about our community. A pen-to-paper petition of opposition currently has more than 1,200 signatures. In summary:

- **This application needs to be rejected outright. A CTS at this location is in direct proximity to vulnerable populations, specifically young adults with special needs, school aged and pre-school aged children, and seniors.**
- **The location is not evidence-based, according to Hamilton Public Health's own data, and does not represent prudent stewardship of public funds.**
- **The City of Hamilton does not feel they have a role in vetting the location of this service. They have neglected this responsibility to the applicant, to the community, to the Federal and Provincial government decision makers, and importantly to the clients of the service. Finding a willing landlord to house the service seems to have been the only criteria for choosing this location.**
- **TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.**

You will see significant flaws in process have preceded the submission of this, as far as we know, still partial application. The local community has not been appropriately consulted. The Board of Health (BoH) approval process failed to meet reasonable due diligence standards. The exact location of the site was withheld until after local approval – there was no opportunity for community consultation or input. The City's own data does not support the need for this service at this location. It will result in an overconcentration of drug and justice system-related services in our immediate community.

Our intention is not to disparage The AIDS Network, and we acknowledge that the illicit drug crisis is a very complex and tragic issue. **We are not disputing the need for a service**, but have serious concerns about the specific location being proposed and the process, or lack of, that has gotten us here.

Brief Timeline:

- **December 2019**, from CBC Hamilton, the City of Hamilton announces it has chosen the site for a second injection site, but the site location "will be made public when the city submits an application to the province's health ministry."³
- **March 2020**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "The city has looked at 29 locations... But in some instances, the locales haven't been large enough or were too close to facilities like schools, which the province deems sensitive."⁴
- Nothing apparently came of the 2019-20 efforts... very little or no news reports appear until about 1.5 years later...
- **On or around October 12**, date Ward 3 councillor Ninder Nann says she first becomes aware of the address of the proposed site (see councillor Nann's email, Appendix A of this document)

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/second-safe-injection-location-1.5387376>

⁴ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/19/city-has-looked-at-29-sites-for-supervised-injection-site-in-hamilton.html>

- **October 19, 2021**, from the Hamilton Spectator, “Hamilton’s board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid... (by) the AIDS Network... for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E...”⁵
- **October 20, 2021**, we (stakeholders on the block of 746 Barton) hear about this initiative in the media. We immediately request a meeting with our councillor and with TAN. Our councillor gives us a meeting date of November 16.
- **October 29, 2021**, TAN attends an in-person meeting at 765 Barton with a few community members. Of note, they specifically state that the data has identified the Barton-Lottridge intersection as a hot-spot for drug overdoses. This is false. No such data exists. They specifically state that they were under no obligation to consult with St. Ann’s School or St. Ann’s Day Care, since they were beyond the 200m radial guideline. When confronted with a map, they acknowledged the school and daycare to be 170m from the proposed location.
- **November 16, 2021**, Councillor Nann, TAN and other supporters attend a community meeting organized by Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living at their office. This agency serves young adults with special needs. Approximately 25 people are in attendance, including families of the participants, staff and community members. Many parents speak of the difficulty in finding quality programming for their children, and praising the work of PSSQL. They explain how their children can become very frightened by loud noises, sirens and people behaving erratically. Councillor Nann is presented with a petition of approximately 600 signatures (the number collected at that time). One member of the TAN delegation minimizes community concerns as “NIMBY-ism”.
- **November 20, 2021**, an article appears in the Hamilton Spectator <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/20/aids-network-supervised-drug-consumption-site-barton-street-east.html>
- **November 21, 2021**, TAN re-posts the article and accompanying photo on social media (see Appendix C). They claim they have reached out to the people mentioned in the article “without response or engagement”. This is patently untrue and is meant to discredit our group. We have initiated contact and have emailed TAN several times with questions (and they have replied – so they can’t say they haven’t been acknowledged). Other stakeholders, such as the African Caribbean Association (quoted), Karlik Pastry (in photo), and neighbours (also in the photo) had not been consulted at all by TAN.
- Furthermore, TAN state in the post that they’ve been trying to engage for “months”, however this site has only been made public since October 19. They admit in the Spectator article they purposefully withheld the location of the site to prevent “conflict and controversy”. Regrettably this has been the very result their approach has achieved.
- **November 30, 2021**, Community petition against the location of the proposed CTS reaches 750+ with more coming in every day.
- **December 2, 2021**, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shares a report. The city’s own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage, confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- **December 3, 2021**, TAN places an opinion piece in the Hamilton Spectator, failing to acknowledge or address community concerns by saying we are among “those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business, or organization.” <https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/12/03/new-consumption-and-treatment-site-in-hamilton-will-help-save-lives.html> . Unfortunately, opinion pieces in opposition (we know of at least three, including our own submissions) are not being published by the Spec.
- **December 6, 2021**, Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton, attends a meeting at our invitation. She indicates the city was aware of the location of the site in mid-August, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/19/safe-consumption-site.html>

- **May 17, 2022**, after months of requests, Councillor Nann meets with our group for the first time. She provides her understanding of the CTS approval process and confirms the City of Hamilton has no say in influencing or directing the location of an injection clinic.
- **As of September 26, 2022** there has still been no communication or engagement from the proponent to the community.

REASONS FOR OPPOSITION

1. Local Conditions:

The AIDS Network (TAN) spokesperson told us at the meeting of October 29, 2021, that, unequivocally, the 746 Barton site selection was strictly "**evidence based**" (their words), driven by City of Hamilton EMS data. Furthermore, they described an unusually specific concentration of problems in the exact vicinity of Barton and Barnesdale, where they want the site to go.

This is not what the data show⁶ (see Figure 1). The vicinity of 746 Barton is not a hot-spot. When pressed, TAN provided us further data which included ward-wide statistics, but nothing specific to our neighbourhood.

The black X in Figure 1 is the approximate location of 746 Barton St E. Note that the neighbourhood around 746 is actually on par with most of the rest of the lower city in terms of calls.

The blue X is the location of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's recently closed (and temporarily relocated) CTS. Note the concentration of EMS calls in the immediate vicinity of that site.

The red X is the new location of the HUCCHC's consumption site on Cannon Street. It is obvious that this area of the city is not the greatest area of need, yet it will be home to two CTS' in very close proximity.

With the closure of HUCCHC's Rebecca St location downtown (the blue X), there will be a significant gap in services in that part of the city. An evidence-based approach would see a new CTS open to serve that need. The Barton – Cannon area will be overserved with CTS. It stands to reason that clients losing the

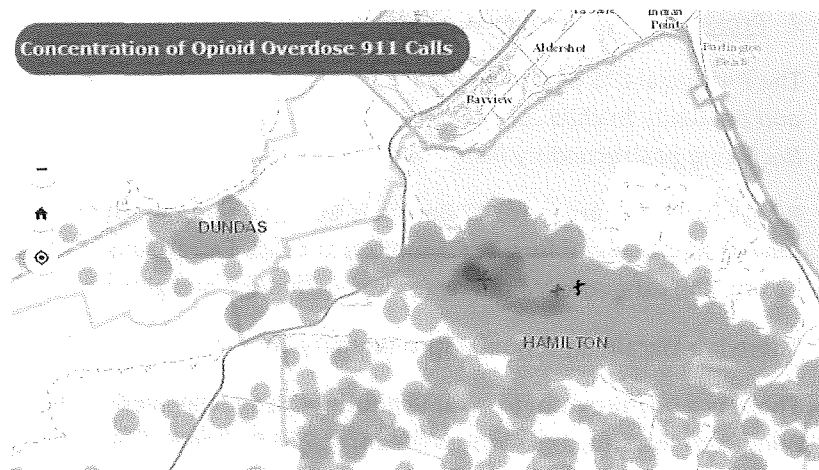


Figure 1 Paramedic incidents in Hamilton related to opioid overdose, 2017-2021
Of note, the data in Figure 1 are for the period of 2017-2021. When one filters the data for 2020-2021, the contrast is even more stark.

⁶ <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/hamilton-opioid-information-system-opioid-overdoses>

service downtown will migrate into our neighbourhood. It is felt that this is part of a larger strategy to respond to the gentrification pressures downtown⁷.

We requested, and were granted a meeting with Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton. We reviewed the data with her, and it confirmed our understanding that the need is greatest in Ward 2 and there is no particular “hot spot” in our neighbourhood.

Ours is a neighbourhood with challenges, but the City of Hamilton’s own data does not corroborate the concentration of, or the need for, a consumption site (and especially a second CTS) in our neighbourhood.

2. Proximity to vulnerable populations

The Provincial CTS program guidelines state: *CTS will not be concentrated in one area or neighbourhood, and proximity to child care centres, parks and/or schools (including postsecondary institutions) will be considered.*

Right across the street at 747 Barton is **Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings**, where former Olympic boxer Nick Farrell runs boxing and other programming for inner city boys and girls.⁸

There is a Ukrainian School approximately 30m away.

There is a day program for young adults with special needs only 30m from the site, and 4 doors down, at 760 Barton St E, called Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living (PSSQL)/ LUSO Charity. Their participants walk (or use a wheelchair) and take the bus to community volunteering opportunities. The proposed CTS is located between them and the nearby park – participants and workers will need to pass right by this site when coming and going from their centre.



Figure 2 PSSQL participants working / volunteering at Furlan Conservation, Barton Street, (Hamilton Spectator, Feb 2015)

While this is not a “licenced day care”, we believe the intent of protecting vulnerable populations from the unpredictable and frankly potentially dangerous circumstances⁹ near a CTS makes them a population that needs special consideration. They did not know about the proposal until we told them. The executive director has been fielding calls from parents concerned about safety. This agency was the recipient of approximately \$700,000 in government capital funding to renovate their building. Their

⁷ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2021/07/09/hamilton-downtown-entertainment-district.html>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/olympic-boxer-farrell-1.5468215>

⁹ To be clear, we are not stating that CTS clients are inherently dangerous, rather that when illegal drugs are being consumed, there is the potential to attract a criminal element, as local housing developer, Indwell, discovered. See: <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2022/04/28/indwell-affordable-supportive-housing-hamilton.html>

participants are supported through the provincial *Passport* funding. **She believes there is a real possibility the centre might close if the CTS goes in here.**

The African Caribbean Association Community Centre is 30m away. They host dinners, events, concerts and other activities for people of all ages. They expressed to us their concern about young black patrons attending their location being targeted by police if a CTS goes in.

There is an elementary school and licenced day care approximately 175m away. In our low-income neighbourhood, kids actually walk to school. Barton is a main corridor to travel by foot since there are signalled intersections and crossing guards in this busy commercial district. The Catholic Board told us approximately 200 children walk past 746 Barton St daily. TAN initially denied this site was within a 200m radius of St. Ann School, and relented only after challenged with our evidence. The school did not know about the proposal until we told them.

We understand the Catholic School Board has informed you directly of their opposition.

A second elementary school is about 250m away, and a high school about 300m away.

There are churches 30m, 150m, 200m and just over 200m away. The churches also run children's programs and are attended by many who arrive on foot. Holy Spirit Church intends to open a day care service.

746 Barton is sandwiched by two residential buildings, with a block of residences in the rear.

Residents are concerned the site will impact reasonable enjoyment of their properties and are fearful of potential security or emergency situations.

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating their CTS to a location only about 1.1 km away from 746 Barton. At least some of the potential need for a CTS on Barton will be addressed at the new HUCCHC site. Placing two CTS in such close proximity will not yield the maximum benefit for the target population. It also concentrates services in an area that already has multiple methadone clinics and social agencies serving, for example, people involved with drug use, human trafficking and sex work, gangs and/or the justice system.



Figure 3 Overhead view of 746 Barton E, side and rear alleys highlighted

In terms of specific site safety, there are **multiple narrow, unlit, alleys** between buildings and the rear service alley (see figure 4). Closing off the alleys between 746 Barton and adjacent properties, which was proposed as a mitigating measure by the AIDS Network in our meeting, is prohibited by fire code

regulations. Security will be a challenge and may endanger staff and police officers who may need to respond to issues at the site, as well as pedestrians and businesses using the highly-travelled alley.

While strategies may be proposed to monitor and discourage **loitering** in front of the building, it will be nearly impossible to do so beside, behind and in the nearby neighbourhood.

Clients using the centre will be turned out onto a busy street with a narrow front sidewalk with no buffer from traffic. Clients waiting outside to enter the centre may impede regular, heavy pedestrian traffic.

*While the AIDS Network will provide general letters of support, they will not be able to provide letters of support from many (possibly any) local residents, businesses and agencies. We have confirmed from at least one supporter that they prepared their letter of support without knowing the specific location of the service.



Figure 4 St. Ann's Catholic Elementary School and St. Ann's Day Care within 200m radius of proposed CTS

This matters. Unfortunately, due to a willing lack of engagement, many locals do not even know who the project proponent is and have been directing their opposition to municipal and provincial officials. We are concerned the all feedback will not make its way to you.

The illicit drug crisis is tragic and complex. We're not disputing the service; we're saying it's in the wrong place. Locating the site in a highly pedestrianized business district, in close proximity to schools, the agency supporting young adults with special needs, churches and residences will have negative, and potentially harmful effects, on our community.

The City of Hamilton has absconded their responsibility to the community by not vetting this site prior to approval to the AIDS Network. We understand finding a location has been a long and difficult process, it seems the only thing this site has going for it is a willing landlord.

3. Community Support and Ongoing Engagement

There has been essentially no local community engagement on this initiative.

Councillor Nann, (see email, Appendix A) indicates she spoke with TAN in August and “stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents...” This never happened. We found out about the site around October 19, 2021 when it made the newspaper. We sought answers from our councillor who has confirmed in writing that the City has no responsibility for choosing the service location. We asked

TAN for a meeting to address our concerns. TAN said they'd been hearing the community was in favour of the initiative and that Zoom consultations were ongoing. **Now, going on a full year since the location was disclosed, TAN, as far as we are aware, still has not organized one community outreach session¹⁰.**

As outlined earlier, it seems that keeping the location of proposed CTS secret from the community has been a strategy at the City of Hamilton since 2019. Not divulging information to citizens is, sadly, a pattern in Hamilton.^{11 12 13} It also seems to be a pattern across the country, where injection sites are put into communities despite their opposition.

The Catholic School Board chair, Patrick Daly, didn't know about the site; PSSQL, serving young adults with intellectual disabilities didn't know; the African Caribbean Cultural Association didn't know; business on the immediate blocks of Barton Street didn't know; the churches didn't know; residents didn't know. They either found out about it by word of mouth or reading about it in the paper. The Barton BIA only heard about it when we told them about one month after the news broke in the Spectator.

We spoke with a staff at three injection sites, in Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara. One operated out of a community health centre, another from a homeless shelter, and the third was a stand-alone centre. Here are some key comments from our conversations:

- When one opened, three years ago, heroin was the drug of choice. Now fentanyl and synthetic cannabinoids dominate. This has led to more erratic and unpredictable behaviour of users.
- The composition of street drugs is often unknown. Twice a week one of the sites offers a lab service to check the chemical composition of drugs that clients bring to the site. It is a very popular service that has gone a long way to reassuring clients and staff. Clients, nervous about the safety of their supply, know what they're getting, and workers are able to stay current on trends in street drugs.
- The effects of synthetic drug consumption are often "atypical", according to the staff person. They don't know what to expect after consumption. Sometimes users pass out and naloxone

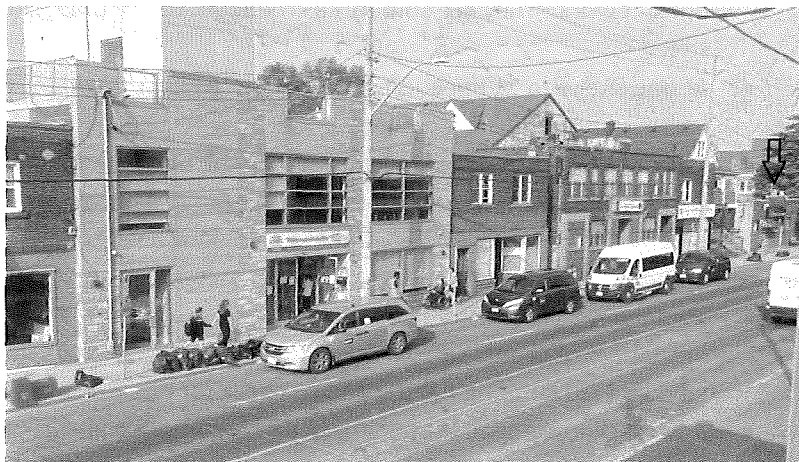


Figure 5 Morning drop off at PSSQL, on foot and by DARTS vehicles. The proposed injection clinic is ~30m away, indicated with the arrow.

¹⁰ TAN has attended two meetings (that we are aware of), both **organized by the community**.

¹¹ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/04/grey-cup-tim-hortons-field-cost.html>

¹² <https://globalnews.ca/news/4933910/hamilton-slippery-red-hill-parkway-report/>

¹³ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/21/exclusive-hamilton-city-council-staff-have-kept-a-24-billion-litre-sewage-spill-secret.html>

doesn't work. They are sometimes reluctant to call EMS. They provide supplemental oxygen on-site.

- At one site with 11 injection stations, there was an incident where four clients became unconscious at the same time.
- They all discuss the challenges posed by the unsafe supply that is available to users.
- Conflicts between clients are more common and becoming more volatile. Issues arise due to money and drugs owed between parties. Staff need to intervene in these situations and clients are sometimes asked to leave. They presumably then consume their drugs nearby.
- There was a "bad incidents" with a needle in a play area not far from the CTS. There are incidences of clients sleeping outside. The centre deploys staff every 20 minutes to clear people who may be loitering nearby and to check for discarded needles.
- It was acknowledged that operating a consumption site as a stand-alone service would be very difficult.
- They spoke of their efforts to fully and transparently engage the community, and gave credit to an extensive 8-to-9-month process with the ultimate acceptance of the service in the community.

We also spoke with Sgt Morgan, a crime manager with the Hamilton Police Service. The service is unable to provide a position statement on consumption sites, but he was able to tell us that they have generally seen an increase in crime and indecent acts around the existing site, and that that has resulted in an increased police presence.

TAN has not demonstrated the capacity to engage with this community. Their strategy of withholding details on the site and its address (even from the ward councillor) have led to suspicions in the community. Instead of engaging the community, TAN has actively sought to discredit us personally and dismiss our concerns through social and mainstream media, all the while rallying public opinion against us by implying the neighbourhood does not think their clients "deserve to live". This has poisoned their credibility in the community - we have no confidence that the AIDS Network will come up with acceptable or effective community engagement plans.

CONCLUSION

The community position continues to be that this may be the right service, but it is the wrong location. Due diligence has not been exercised. We are living and working in one of the lowest socio-economic postal codes in the province, and we have exercised far greater scrutiny over this location than our own Board of Health, local councillor or the project proponent. The deficiencies outlined herein clearly show this has the potential to be a very bad news story.

This application needs to be rejected outright.

The City of Hamilton needs to be made aware that their endorsement of a CTS application requires more rigor. Shame on them for neglecting this responsibility.

The proponent needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.

Please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval for the neighbours and businesses on and around Barton Street

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

APPENDIX A – November 8, 2021 e-mail from councillor Nrinder Nann, Ward 3

Nann, Nrinder

to Office, me, [REDACTED]

1:19 PM (4 hours ago)



Hi Walter, Bob and Lena.

Public Health informed myself and Ctr Farr of TAN's desire to pursue a location in Ward 3 in August this year, during a meeting when we reviewed the information that was coming to the Board of Health related to Hamilton's Drug Strategy.

I expressed my concern at this meeting and previous ones of an overconcentration of services in Ward 3 but was informed that data triangulates to emergency calls related to toxic drug use in this neighbourhood as both a growing and ongoing concern. The need continues to be highest in Ward 2, and it is my understanding that both the interim Urban Core location will continue to serve the population in need in that area until to complete the build of their new location on Cannon St E. I also learned of the possibility of another CTS application coming forward for Ward 2 as well.

Given the data, it is essential to make evidence-based decisions to address health needs across the City. I stand by that and the need to support TAN's application to the Ministry, along with the whole of Hamilton Board of Health, based on Public Health data on the need for these services in Ward 3 growing.

Also in a meeting in the first week of August, I met with The Aids Network and they confirmed they were looking at a site on Barton Street in the Barnesdale area. I stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents. They were not able to disclose to me at that time the exact address.

The final Boh report on the Comprehensive Opioid Response was uploaded to the City's website the week before the meeting on Oct 18th. I reviewed this report the weekend prior to the Monday meeting and the location - 746 Barton St was listed in Appendix B of the report <https://pub-hamilton.escribanetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=289029>. This is when I received confirmation of the exact address.

Yours in community,

Councillor Nrinder Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

APPENDIX B – EMAIL TO ENTIRE CITY OF HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH, INCLUDING THE MAYOR AND MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH – NOT ONE REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS RECEIVED IN RETURN

Opposition to Board of Health endorsement of 746 Barton as a consumption site

Thu, Nov 4, 7:00 PM (5 days ago)

Liz Duval [REDACTED]
to elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca

Dear Dr. Elizabeth Richardson,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at **746 Barton Street East** in Hamilton.

Recently the Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application for a supervised consumption site. I reviewed the video of the meeting and did not see any information presented, or any debate, regarding the exact address of the proposed site. The AIDS Network did not disclose the location as part of their presentation. I think you'd agree, the location of this service, which will require an exemption to the Criminal Code of Canada, is pretty important.

Did you know:

- **Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living**, an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities is only 30m away at **760 Barton St E?**
- **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church** fronts onto Barton at **730 Barton St E?** In addition to religious services, they run children's programs.
- **St. Ann School is approximately 170m from the site.** Catholic School Board Chair Pat Daly was unaware of the proposed site until WE told him.
- **St. Ann Early Learning and Care Centre** is approximately **170m from the site.**
- **Norm**, our 78-year-old retired steel worker neighbour, who will not likely get market value for his house if this site goes in, **lives right next door.**
- This is a commercial district with numerous businesses.

NO ONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS CONSULTED ABOUT THIS, though we understand the proponent has been in talks with the landlord of the building since August. We read about it in the Spec AFTER BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL. Our Ward 3 councillor says she is too busy to meet with us. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

This is not the right location for this site and we are certain that the Board of Health would never have provided its endorsement if more details were known. The executive director of PSSQL is very concerned that families will pull their participants out of programs due to safety concerns. There is a deficit of services for adults with intellectual disabilities - it would be tragic if the introduction of a service (the consumption site) resulted in the closure of an agency that serves an even more vulnerable segment of the population. Surely this cannot be the intent here.

Sorry for all the bold and caps, but we're feeling so frustrated and unheard in this community. We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street, at 765 Barton E, and live upstairs. We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that virtually no consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We can't count on our Ward 3 councillor and are hoping you will care enough to re-open this discussion.

We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,
Liz Duval

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX C – TAN NOVEMBER 21, 2021 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

 **TAN CTS** 13h 🔗 ⋮

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged.
Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca

 **The Hamilton Spectator** Yesterday at 7:00 AM 🔗


Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis. [See more](#)




THE SPEC.COM

Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

♥ The AIDS Network liked

 **TAN CTS** @CTSAtTAN · 15h ⋮

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt
[@TheSpec](#) [@TeviahMoro](#)

 **Hamilton Spectator** 🔗 @TheSpec · Nov 21

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, [@TeviahMoro](#) reports
#HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG50GSAF8

i Email from Michelle Baird to Walter Furlan, December 2, 2021



Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Thu, Dec 2, 2021, 12:32 PM

to me

Good afternoon,

Attached is some data we can discuss when we meet.

We were made aware of the potential site at Barton in August through a meeting with TAN.

...

Michelle

ii Quote from Tim McClemont, Executive Director, the AIDS Network in the Hamilton Spectator, November 20, 2021 (page A3)

iii Councillor Nann email, June 2022

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Ninder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>

Date: Wed, Jun 1, 2022 at 4:40 PM

Subject: RE: Notes from Tuesday's meeting

To: Tanya B <jacviviviv@gmail.com>, Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Ninder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>, Nann, Ninder <Ninder.Nann@hamilton.ca>

Cc: furlanconservation@gmail.com <furlanconservation@gmail.com>, n_turco@hotmail.com <n_turco@hotmail.com>, bob.e.sutton1@gmail.com <bob.e.sutton1@gmail.com>, lene.sutton@bell.net <lene.sutton@bell.net>, karlbastiv@gmail.com <karlbastiv@gmail.com>, narm21@aol.com <narm21@aol.com>, brenda.duke@hotmail.com <brenda.duke@hotmail.com>, daivq@hwodsb.ca <daivq@hwodsb.ca>, jacinta.echo@lusocos.ctg <jacinta.echo@lusocos.ctg>, izduva2000@gmail.com <izduva2000@gmail.com>, michael@kcege.com <michael@kcege.com>

Hi Tanya,

Thank you for your email. It was a pleasure to meet with all of you in person.

Please find the answers to your questions below in red:

Yours in Community,

Dear Councillor Nann,

Thank you for meeting with our group yesterday to hear our concerns about the proposed injection clinic location. You heard from concerned citizens, business owners, parents, retirees, an agency serving young adults with disabilities and the Hamilton Catholic District School Board. All spoke against the location that's been proposed for the clinic. To emphasize yet again, we are not against the service, but we do not support the location that is being proposed.

We heard:

- You acknowledged that we had concerns about a school, a daycare and vulnerable populations near the injection clinic, but you would not recognize there are any potential problems with this service in proximity to those groups.

As I said at the meeting, there are legitimate concerns about community effects in this (or any) location. I am awaiting TAN's mitigation plan to be able to assess if those plans sufficiently address these concerns.

- You confirmed that the City has NO role or influence over the selection of a location for the injection clinic - when an application comes forward to the Board of Health, the municipality has no mandate to ask any questions. You said you'd been surprised to find that the municipality does not have a say on location and stated that "the location was a concern for me too".

The City does not vet locations of CTS services that are not being operated by the City of Hamilton, and that was new information when I learned it. Each applicant is responsible for finding the location. If a CTS were considered for a City building, the City would be able to ask questions as a landlord. In this case, the kinds of questions the City can ask are limited to zoning and other items regulated by bylaw. Ultimately, it is up to the provincial and federal governments to approve the location.

In terms of concerns about this location, I would want to hear about mitigation plans for community concerns for any location, not just this one.

- You confirmed there was no vetting by the City, nor was there any community consultation prior to the Board of Health's unanimous approval. You stated that as a member of the Board of Health you only learned of the specific address a few days prior to the meeting at which TAN's application was endorsed. Neither you, nor your colleagues, asked any questions about the specific location because scrutiny on the location falls into the Provincial jurisdiction. You said you were currently powerless to stop the application from proceeding because the Board of Health had endorsed TAN to pursue a CTS in Ward 3 (though the resolution does not specifically identify 746 Barton).

What I said was, the province has the jurisdiction of approving this application, not the Board of Health. I don't have the authority to stop the application. My role as Councillor is to encourage robust community consultation throughout the process and the Board of Health/Council provide general support for the opening of a CTS site to help address our opioid drug crisis. Boards of Health also must demonstrate to the Province that we are responding to this real health crises in our community.

The City is not obligated to vet the location or complete an independent community consultation; that is the responsibility of the applicant. As part of the application process for a CTS, the applicant needs to demonstrate that they have provided community consultation. There is more information on the application and requirements that you can find here: [Consumption and Treatment Services: Application Guide \(gov.on.ca\)](#). Ultimately, it is up to TAN to fulfill the requirements of the application and the Province/Federal Government will make the decision on the application and the location.

- You failed to refute your support for the specific injection clinic location at 746 Barton, despite requests for clarification.

I repeatedly stated that I am in support of CTS services in general and that my decision on whether this location and the organizations applying to open it are to continue receiving support hinges on their ability to address concerns raised by the local community through a mitigation plan.

- You also stated that there are other injection locations under consideration in the city, specifically in Ward 2 downtown, and that those locations are also being kept secret from the community.

There are other locations under consideration for a CTS at various stages in the process. Locations are not shared with Councillors or the public at this point in the process. Any possible CTS locations will follow the process outlined at the link I shared above.

- Given that it's been about 7 months since Board of Health endorsement of the location and that TAN has yet to complete their application to the Federal and Provincial governments, you indicated you would give TAN a deadline to complete their application. You said you'd let us know TAN's deadline date, and that you'd follow-up with us once you'd reviewed their plan, but the consequences of an incomplete or inadequate plan were not clear.

I said I would give TAN a deadline to provide their mitigation plan for community concerns. I have no deadline for their application. I have requested a meeting with them to discuss this and will share with you the deadline to see that plan once they have informed me about their ability to deliver. Whether or not their mitigation plan is robust and addresses the concerns will determine whether or not I can support their operation of this site. However, as mentioned above, my support or lack thereof will not determine whether or not the CTS is opened. This is decided by the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada.

When it was pointed out that St. Ann Catholic School is less than 200m from the proposed location, you agreed that the Ministry of Health "will not waive the school issue" and would be unlikely to fund this proposal, as a school at this proximity is contrary to their funding program guidelines. You repeated that the municipality has no say on location selection.

I do not know how the ministry determines measurement in a case like this (door to door, edge of building to another, direct line, or route of travel etc) so I cannot comment on whether this location meets the 200m minimum length. That would be a question for the ministry or MPP. My understanding of the regulation is that 200m is the minimum length, but I do not know if an exception can be made or not. Again, that would be a question for the ministry or MPP. These are not decisions that are made by the municipality.

Councillor Nrinder Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Phone: (905) 546-4550

Email: Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca

Website: nrinder.ca

City Hall is located on the ancestral territory of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabe and many other Indigenous peoples. It is also covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement, which asks that all sharing this territory do so respectfully and sustainably in community.

The Ward 3 Office sends bi-weekly electronic newsletters. Please advise us if you wish to unsubscribe.

iv Councillor Nann's office email of March 22, 2022

Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann

Tue, Mar 22, 12:11 PM ☆ ↶ ⋮

to me, Office *

Hi Walter,

Thank you for contacting the Ward 3 office

The timeline of community consultation that TAN has undergone can be found here: <https://roadsnetwork.ca/cts/>

In terms of the location, though it is true there is urgency in responding to the need that the drug epidemic in our city requires, there is no quick fix. In fact, Public Health tried and failed to secure a location for years for a City-led CTS. No private land owner was willing to sign a lease for this. The location associated with TAN's application, at 746 Barton Street E is **because the land owner is a willing partner**. That is key in their ability to pursue the application. Additionally, a storefront with ample room inside to be repurposed for multiple services, is necessary for a CTS site and the location does have the correct specifications for the delivery of these essential services.

TAN will be connecting directly with both school boards and St. Ann's Elementary School

Warmly,

Alex

Alexandra Weinberger, she/her

Resident Liaison and Administrative Assistant

Councillor Nrinder Nann, Ward 3

City Hall - 71 Main St W, Second Floor, Hamilton ON, L8P 4Y5

Phone: 905-546-2107

Email: alexandra.weinberger@hamilton.ca

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Background on LUSO, 760 Barton St E

Luso Support Services serves young people with special needs.

More than 50 participants attend each day. Their clients have intellectual disabilities. Many have multiple, complex disabilities. Many require assistive devices and require comprehensive, one-on-one assistance.

Most arrive in DARTS vehicles, which are often line up for drop off to the front door of 746 Barton.

They have made a multi-million dollar investment in their facility and Barton St.

They have concerns for participant safety. Their mandate includes integrating the participants into the community – they come to my workshop every week to do some woodworking.

They invited TAN to a community meeting 2021. The parents of her clients expressed grave concerns – some were in tears. She has not received further contact from TAN since that time.

“It has to go somewhere; Aren’t you just being NIMBY”

- This isn’t about NIMBY, it’s about protecting vulnerable people. No one else is looking out for them; not the proponent, not the city.
- You literally probably could not have chosen a worse location. It only consideration was a willing landlord.
- Saying it has to go somewhere doesn’t mean it should just go anywhere.
- Within 50m
 - o Luso Support Centre of Hamilton, a day program for young adults with intellectual disabilities
 - o African Canadian Caribbean Association, a cultural and event space
 - o King of Kings Boxing Gym, for inner city kids
 - o Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church, religious services and cultural
 - o Barvinok School of Ukrainian Dance, an internationally renown youth dance troupe
 - o 14 residential buildings, home to families with children, people disabilities and seniors
- Within 100m
 - o Holy Spirit Catholic Church
 - o St. Stanislaw Church and licenced daycare
 - o Barton Arts Music school
- Within 200m
 - o St. Ann Catholic Elementary School and St Ann Early Years Centre
 - o St. Ann Catholic Church

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315
- Immigrant Culture and Art Association
- Dozens of residences and businesses

I would challenge you to find a location in Hamilton that has so many community assets.

This isn't just about me; 1,200 people signed a petition. 20+ have written letters. **IMPORTANTLY:** Our community has never had a chance to make its wishes known. This file was dormant for 16 months. **This is intentional exclusion by design.**

The Service has to be where the clients are; on a bus route....

- Public Health's own data do not show extraordinary need on Barton St.
- December 2, 2021, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shared a report. **The city's own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage,** confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- The most recent data show high areas of need in Stoney Creek and Dundas.
- There's already going to be an injection clinic 1.1 km (10 minute walk) from 746 Barton.
- Mount Hope example – bus route

Why aren't you communicating through TAN?

- TAN has treated the community very poorly.
- They posted our photo on social media and called us liars.
- They've called us "uneducated".
- They have not shown themselves to be acting in good faith or with transparency. For example, they made no effort to inform the community of this meeting. We could find no mention of this meeting on their website.
- They have yet to initiate any community outreach. Any meetings that have taken place have been initiated by the community. An online survey does not constitute community consultation.
- We have been in direct contact with the provincial and federal departments, who have agreed to receive our information directly.



Walter Furlan <walterforward3@gmail.com>

Sneaking this through

Peter Dyakowski
To: Walter Furlan

Mon, Feb 13, 2023 at 7:56 AM

Not a bother at all! Thanks for leading on this!

Dear Board of Health,

I am writing to you today as a parent of two children at St. Ann's School at Barton and Sherman. Our family loves that school, both the education it delivers and the community it provides. Our daughters love going there. It is part of our lives. Whenever the weather is anywhere close to decent, we walk to school.

I am extremely concerned by the proposal to put an injection clinic in close proximity to our elementary school. It is indisputable that this facility will attract crime. It will also force upon the young, innocent children at St. Ann's school the daily spectacle of grown adults high, coming down, and in states of distress as they feel in need of their next hit. They will see the very worst things that people do to each other on display right in front of their school. There will be violence, sex acts, and public defecation. I manage downtown properties and have since 2008. I KNOW what I am talking about.

Addiction is a dehumanizing monster. That our society has accepted this affliction as a given is a horrible indictment upon us all. Forcing it upon 6-year-olds, making small children confront this reality daily, is criminal. Everyone involved in making this decision needs to pause and look deeply within themselves. If you, in your personal capacity, allow this, you will be responsible for what is inflicted upon these children. You will bear responsibility for the childhoods you end and the lives you break. Some of these kids will never be the same after seeing the things you will show them. You, personally, are making this decision, for or against.

This is not an appropriate place for a facility like this. This is exactly where you should not place something like this. You have a responsibility to find an alternative location with fewer negative impacts.

In 2006 Hamilton chose me, and since then I have chosen to make Hamilton my home. This is my community, I want to be able to raise my children here and not worry about scarring them. I want to be able to walk them to school.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Peter Dyakowski



[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments



image.png
2K



image.png
11K

**COMMUNITY OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CONSUMPTION SITE
AT 746 BARTON STREET EAST, HAMILTON
June 15, 2022**

To:

Hon. Filomena Tassi, MP
Lisa Hepfner, MP

Enclosures:

- Executive Summary
- Community amenities in close proximity to proposed location at 746 Barton Street
- Briefing package, summarizing community opposition in specific context of the Provincial Ministry of Health Consumption Treatment Site (CTS) funding program.

Submitted by:

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval, for the neighbours and business on Barton

Dear Ms. Tassi and Ms. Hepfner,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2021, The AIDS Network (TAN) was endorsed by Hamilton's Board of Health (BoH) to pursue an injection site in Ward 3, Hamilton. At the time of the endorsement, the BoH was aware of the site's address at 746 Barton St. East, yet no questions were asked about the appropriateness of the location, whether community consultation had taken place, or its proximity to vulnerable populations.

In fact, the address was **purposefully kept secret** from the community until it was approved by the City, **no community consultation was undertaken** and it is **in very close proximity to multiple vulnerable populations**, including school and pre-school aged children (schools and day-cares), people with a disability and seniors.

The City of Hamilton failed in its responsibility to vet the site prior to approval of the location, in contrast to communities such as Cambridge and Barrie who have undergone extensive reviews of potential injection sites that has included robust community consultation. Ward 3 councillor Nann stated to us that the City has **no influence** over the location TAN is pursuing for the CTS.

Step 2 in the 3-step¹ CTS approval process is a federal exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. This is the reason for our appeal to you.

From: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/supervised-consumption-sites/apply.html> (emphasis added)

In Canada, possession of controlled substances is prohibited under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. To operate a supervised consumption site (SCS) for medical purposes in Canada, an exemption under section 56.1 of the Act is necessary.

Health Canada may grant exemptions for SCS after satisfactory completion of an application. An application includes **consultation with a broad range of people in the community**.

Each site is considered on a case-by-case basis, on its own merits. We take the information in the application and **public and health safety objectives into account**.

Exemptions for SCS are generally granted for a year. However, length of time can vary based on the completeness of the application and compliance history.

Other federal considerations include:

- Number of drug-related overdoses and deaths in local area
- Intended health and safety impact of site on target population, general public and local area

¹ Step 3 is funding approval under the provincial Consumption Treatment Site funding program of the Ministry of Health. Of note, an injection clinic may operate if they secure federal approval but fail to get provincial funding.

- Community Consultation report - This information is gathered to understand the efforts that have been made to engage with the community to inform them of the proposal and ensure that the voices of community members have been heard.

We are not against supports for people with addictions, including, where appropriate, injection sites. The current illicit drug crisis is complex and tragic. You will see, however from the material provided herein, that the proposed CTS location at 746 Barton Street East is deficient in many of the federal and provincial criteria.

We hope that we can count on your support to oppose the proposed CTS location² at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. We would be very pleased to discuss this with you further at your convenience.

² According to Blaine Bouchard, Manager, Ministry of Health, TAN has submitted a partial application to the CTS funding program.

Community Snapshot



X – 746 Barton Street East, location of proposed CTS. Currently occupied by a restaurant with a lease to May 2023.

1 and 2 - 740 and 748 Barton, occupied residential buildings immediately adjacent to the site, one owned by the residents, the other a rental.

3 - 747 Barton, Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings, boxing and other programming for inner city children, run by a former Olympian.

4 – 752 Barton, African Caribbean Cultural Association – A charity to “facilitate and foster community engagement and empowerment for all members of our community including youth.”

5 – 760 Barton, Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living, a charity providing “a safe, supportive and caring environment for individuals & families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities.”

6 – 15 St Olga (fronts at 730 Barton), Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church, the Ukrainian Day School (daycare pending), and the reknown Barvinok Ukrainian School of Dance, in addition to other community groups/events.

7 – 8 St. Ann St (fronts at ~720 Barton), St. Stanislaus Polish Church, hosts various community groups/events.

8 – 15 St. Ann St., St. Ann Catholic Elementary School; St Ann Early Years Centre

9 – 120 Sherman Av N (fronts at ~686 Barton St.), St. Ann Catholic Church, hosts various community groups/events.

10 – 4 Solidarnosc Place, Royal Canadian Polish Legion Branch 315

There are also innumerable small, family run businesses and residences in the immediate area.

Also of note, there are:

METHADONE CLINICS at:

- . Vista Addiction Treatment Clinic, **847 Barton St E**
- . The Stipley Clinic, **707 Barton St E**
- . ACT Methadone Clinic, **664 Barton St E**

MARIJUANA RETAILERS at:

- . Matrix Cannabis Company, **774 Barton St E**
- . Cannabis House Co, **800 Barton St E**
- . And one coming soon to **859 Barton St E**

- Sex Workers Action Program, 771 Barton St. E

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide additional information regarding local conditions, proximity and community opposition with respect to The AIDS Network's (TAN) proposal to operate a CTS at 746 Barton St. E. in Hamilton. This document is the culmination of literally hundreds of hours of research by volunteer resident and business owners who care about our community. A pen-to-paper petition of opposition currently has more than 1,100 signatures. In summary:

- **This application needs to be rejected outright. A CTS at this location is in direct proximity to vulnerable populations, specifically young adults with special needs, school aged and pre-school aged children, and seniors.**
- **The location is not evidence-based, according to Hamilton Public Health's own data, and does not represent prudent stewardship of public funds.**
- **The City of Hamilton does not feel they have a role in vetting the location of this service. They have neglected this responsibility to the applicant, to the community, to the Federal and Provincial government decision makers, and importantly to the clients of the service. Finding a willing landlord to house the service seems to have been the only criteria for choosing this location.**
- **TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for this service.**

You will see significant flaws in process have preceded the submission of this, as far as we know, partial application. The local community has not been appropriately consulted. The Board of Health (BoH) approval process failed to meet reasonable due diligence standards. The exact location of the site was withheld until after local approval – there was no opportunity for community consultation or input. The City's own data does not support the need for this service at this location. It will result in an overconcentration of drug and justice system-related services in our immediate community.

Our intention is not to disparage The AIDS Network, and we acknowledge that the illicit drug crisis is a very complex and tragic issue. **We are not disputing the need for a service**, but have serious concerns about the specific location being proposed and the process, or lack of, that has gotten us here.

Brief Timeline:

- **December 2019**, from CBC Hamilton, the City of Hamilton announces it has chosen the site for a second injection site, but the site location "will be made public when the city submits an application to the province's health ministry."³
- **March 2020**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "The city has looked at 29 locations... But in some instances, the locales haven't been large enough or were too close to facilities like schools, which the province deems sensitive."⁴
- Nothing apparently came of the 2019-20 efforts... very little or no news reports appear until about 1.5 years later...
- **On or around October 12**, date Ward 3 councillor Nrinder Nann says she first becomes aware of the address of the proposed site (see councillor Nann's email, Appendix A of this document)

³ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/second-safe-injection-location-1.5387376>

⁴ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/19/city-has-looked-at-29-sites-for-supervised-injection-site-in-hamilton.html>

- **October 19, 2021**, from the Hamilton Spectator, "Hamilton's board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid... (by) the AIDS Network... for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E..."⁵
- **October 20, 2021**, we (stakeholders on the block of 746 Barton) hear about this initiative in the media. We immediately request a meeting with our councillor and with TAN. Our councillor gives us a meeting date of November 16.
- **October 29, 2021**, TAN attends an in-person meeting at 765 Barton with a few community members. Of note, they specifically state that the data has identified the Barton-Lottridge intersection as a hot-spot for drug overdoses. This is false. No such data exists. They specifically state that they were under no obligation to consult with St. Ann's School or St. Ann's Day Care, since they were beyond the 200m radial guideline. When confronted with a map, they acknowledged the school and daycare to be 170m from the proposed location.
- **November 16, 2021**, Councillor Nann, TAN and other supporters attend a community meeting organized by Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living at their office. This agency serves young adults with special needs. Approximately 25 people are in attendance, including families of the participants, staff and community members. Many parents speak of the difficulty in finding quality programming for their children, and praising the work of PSSQL. They explain how their children can become very frightened by loud noises, sirens and people behaving erratically. Councillor Nann is presented with a petition of approximately 600 signatures (the number collected at that time). One member of the TAN delegation minimizes community concerns as "NIMBY-ism".
- **November 20, 2021**, an article appears in the Hamilton Spectator <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/20/aids-network-supervised-drug-consumption-site-barton-street-east.html>
- **November 21, 2021**, TAN re-posts the article and accompanying photo on social media (see Appendix C). They claim they have reached out to the people mentioned in the article "without response or engagement". This is patently untrue and is meant to discredit our group. We have initiated contact and have emailed TAN several times with questions (and they have replied – so they can't say they haven't been acknowledged). Other stakeholders, such as the African Caribbean Association (quoted), Karlik Pastry (in photo), and neighbours (also in the photo) had not been consulted at all by TAN.
- Furthermore, TAN state in the post that they've been trying to engage for "months", however this site has only been made public since October 19. They admit in the Spectator article they purposefully withheld the location of the site to prevent "conflict and controversy". Regrettably this has been the very result their approach has achieved.
- **November 30, 2021**, Community petition against the location of the proposed CTS reaches 750+ with more coming in every day.
- **December 2, 2021**, City of Hamilton epidemiologist Michelle Baird shares a report. The city's own data show 2% (20 calls out of 816 received) of all opioid-related EMS calls originate on Barton Street East, between Victoria and Gage, confirming the lack of evidence to support the choice of location.
- **December 3, 2021**, TAN places an opinion piece in the Hamilton Spectator, failing to acknowledge or address community concerns by saying we are among "those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business, or organization."
<https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/12/03/new-consumption-and-treatment-site-in-hamilton-will-help-save-lives.html> . Unfortunately, opinion pieces in opposition (we know of at least three, including our own submissions) are not being published by the Spec.
- **December 6, 2021**, Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton, attends a meeting at our invitation. She indicates the city was aware of the location of the site in mid-August, 2021.

⁵ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/19/safe-consumption-site.html>

- **May 17, 2022**, after months of requests, Councillor Nann meets with our group for the first time. She provides her understanding of the CTS approval process and confirms the City of Hamilton has no say in influencing or directing the location of an injection clinic.

Reasons for opposition

1. Local Conditions:

The AIDS Network spokesperson told us at the meeting of October 29, 2021, that, unequivocally, the 746 Barton site selection was strictly "**evidence based**" (their words), driven by City of Hamilton EMS data. Furthermore, they described an *unusually specific* concentration of problems in the exact vicinity of Barton and Barnesdale, where they want the site to go.

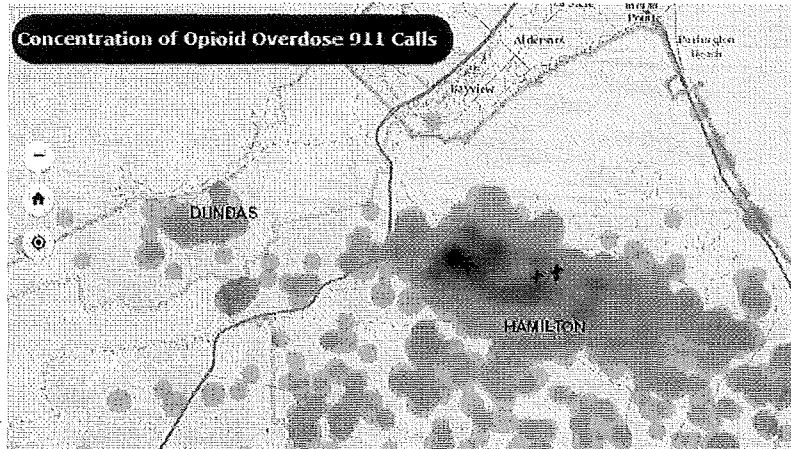


Figure 1 Paramedic incidents in Hamilton related to opioid overdose, 2017-2021
Of note, the data in Figure 1 are for the period of 2017-2021. When one filters the data for 2020-2021, the contrast is even more stark.

This is not what the data show⁶ (see Figure 1). The vicinity of 746 Barton is not a hot-spot. When pressed, TAN provided us further data which included ward-wide statistics, but nothing specific to our neighbourhood.

The black X in Figure 1 is the approximate location of 746 Barton St E at longitude 79.83, latitude 43.255. Note that the neighbourhood around 746 is actually on par with most of the rest of the lower city in terms of calls.

The blue X is the location of the Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's current CTS, longitude 79.867, latitude 43.258. Note the concentration of EMS calls in the immediate vicinity of the that site.

The red X is the new location of the HUCCHC's consumption site on Cannon Street. It is obvious that this area of the city is not the greatest area of need, yet it will be home to two CTS' in very close proximity.

With the closure of HUCCHC's Rebecca St location downtown (the blue X), there will be a significant gap in services in that part of the city. An evidence-based approach would see a new CTS open to serve that need. The Barton – Cannon area will be overserved with CTS. It stands to reason that

⁶ <https://www.hamilton.ca/public-health/reporting/hamilton-opioid-information-system-opioid-overdoses>

clients losing the service downtown will migrate into our neighbourhood. It is felt that this is part of a larger strategy to respond to the gentrification pressures downtown⁷.

We requested, and were granted a meeting with Michelle Baird, epidemiologist with the City of Hamilton. We reviewed the data with her, and it confirmed our understanding that the need is greatest in Ward 2 and there is no particular “hot spot” in our neighbourhood.

Ours is a neighbourhood with challenges, but the City of Hamilton’s own data does not corroborate the concentration of, or the need for, a consumption site (and especially a second CTS) in our neighbourhood.

2. Proximity to vulnerable populations

The Provincial CTS program guidelines state: *CTS will not be concentrated in one area or neighbourhood, and proximity to child care centres, parks and/or schools (including postsecondary institutions) will be considered.*

Right across the street at 747 Barton is **Boxing Champion Gym – King of Kings**, where former Olympic boxer Nick Farrell runs boxing and other programming for inner city boys and girls.⁸

There is a Ukrainian School approximately 30m away.

There is a day program for young adults with special needs only 30m from the site, and 4 doors down, at 760 Barton St E, called Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living (PSSQL). Their participants walk (or use a wheelchair) and take the bus to community volunteering opportunities. The proposed CTS is located between them and the nearby park – participants and workers will need to pass right by this site when coming and going from their centre.



Figure 2 PSSQL participants working / volunteering at Furlan Conservation, Barton Street, (Hamilton Spectator, Feb 2015)

While this is not a “licenced day care”, we believe the intent of protecting vulnerable populations from the unpredictable and frankly potentially dangerous circumstances⁹ near a CTS makes them a population that needs special consideration. They did not know about the proposal until we told them. The executive director has been fielding calls from parents concerned about safety. This agency was the recipient of approximately \$700,000 in government capital funding to renovate their building. Their

⁷ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2021/07/09/hamilton-downtown-entertainment-district.html>

⁸ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/olympic-boxer-farrell-1.5468215>

⁹ To be clear, we are not stating that CTS clients are inherently dangerous, rather that when illegal drugs are being consumed, there is the potential to attract a criminal element, as local housing developer, Indwell, discovered. See: <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/opinion/2022/04/28/indwell-affordable-supportive-housing-hamilton.html>

participants are supported through the provincial Passport funding. **She believes there is a real possibility the centre might close if the CTS goes in here.**

The African Caribbean Association Community Centre is 30m away. They host dinners, events, concerts and other activities for people of all ages. They expressed to us their concern about young black patrons attending their location being targeted by police.

There is an elementary school and licenced day care approximately 175m away. In our low-income neighbourhood, kids actually walk to school. Barton is a main corridor to travel by foot since there are signalled intersections and crossing guards in this busy commercial district. TAN initially denied this site was within a 200m radius of St. Ann School, and relented only after challenged with our data. The school did not know about the proposal until we told them.

We understand the Catholic School Board has informed you directly of their opposition.

A second elementary school is about 250m away, and a high school about 300m away.

There are churches 30m, 150m, 200m and just over 200m away. The churches also run children's programs and are attended by many who arrive on foot. Holy Spirit Church intends to open a day care service.

746 Barton is sandwiched by two residential buildings, with a block of residences in the rear. Residents are concerned the site will impact reasonable enjoyment of their properties and are fearful of potential security or emergency situations.

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating their CTS to a location only about 1.1 km away from 746 Barton. At least some of the potential need for a CTS on Barton will be addressed at the new HUCCHC site. Placing two CTS in such close proximity will not yield the maximum benefit for the target population. It also concentrates services in an area that already has multiple methadone clinics and social agencies serving, for example, people involved with drug use, human trafficking and sex work, gangs and/or the justice system.

In terms of specific site safety, there are **multiple narrow, unlit, alleys** between buildings and the rear service alley (see figure 4). Closing off the alleys between 746 Barton and adjacent properties, which was proposed as a mitigating measure by the AIDS Network in our meeting, is prohibited by fire code regulations. Security will be a challenge and may endanger staff and police officers who may need to respond to issues at the site,



Figure 3 Overhead view of 746 Barton E, side and rear alleys highlighted

as well as pedestrians and businesses using the highly-travelled alley.

While strategies may be proposed to monitor and discourage loitering in front of the building, it will be nearly impossible to do so beside, behind and in the nearby neighbourhood.

Clients using the centre will be turned out onto a busy street with a narrow front sidewalk with no buffer from traffic. Clients waiting outside to enter the centre may impede regular, heavy pedestrian traffic.

*While the AIDS Network will provide general letters of support, they will not be able to provide letters of support from many (possibly any) local residents, businesses and agencies. We have confirmed from at least one supporter that they prepared their letter of support without knowing the specific location of the service.

This matters. Unfortunately, due to a willing lack of engagement, many locals do not even know who the project proponent is and have been directing their opposition to municipal and provincial officials. We are concerned the all feedback will not make its way to you.

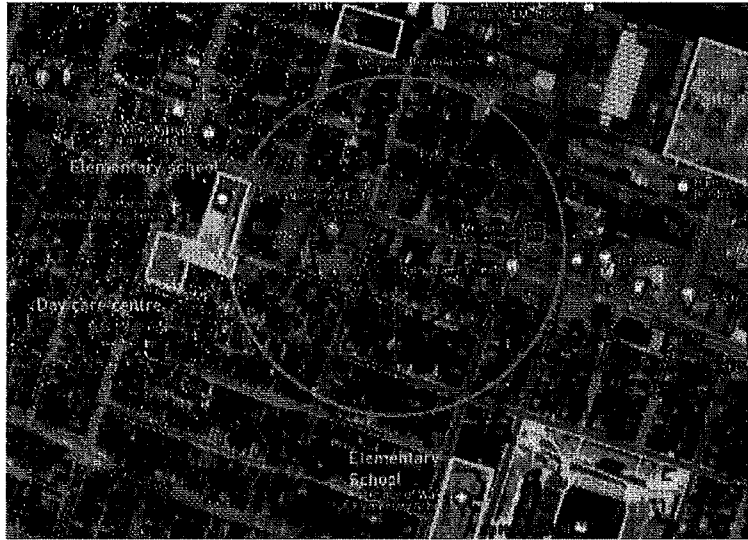


Figure 4 St. Ann's Catholic Elementary School and St. Ann's Day Care within 200m radius of proposed CTS

The illicit drug crisis is tragic and complex. We're not disputing the service; we're saying it's in the wrong place. Locating the site in a highly pedestrianized business district, in close proximity to schools, the agency supporting young adults with special needs, churches and residences will have negative, and potentially harmful effects, on our community.

The City of Hamilton has absconded their responsibility to the community by not vetting this site prior to approval to the AIDS Network. We understand finding a location has been a long and difficult process, it seems the only thing this site has going for it is a willing landlord.

3. Community Support and Ongoing Engagement

There has been essentially no local community engagement on this initiative.

Councillor Nann, (see email, Appendix A) indicates she spoke with TAN in August and "stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents..." This never happened. We found out about the site around October 19 when it made the newspaper. We sought answers from our councillor who has

confirmed in writing that the City has no responsibility for choosing the service location. We asked TAN for a meeting to address our concerns. TAN said they'd been hearing the community was in favour of the initiative and that Zoom consultations were ongoing. **Now, going on seven months since the location was disclosed, TAN, as far as we are aware, still has not organized one community outreach session¹⁰.**

As outlined earlier, it seems that keeping the location of proposed CTS secret from the community has been a strategy at the City of Hamilton since 2019. Not

divulging information to citizens is, sadly, a pattern in Hamilton.^{11 12 13} It also seems to be a pattern across the country, where injection sites are put into communities despite their opposition.

The Catholic School Board chair, Patrick Daly, didn't know about the site; PSSQL, serving young adults with intellectual disabilities didn't know; the African Caribbean Cultural Association didn't know; business on the immediate blocks of Barton Street didn't know; the churches didn't know; residents didn't know. They either found out about it by word of mouth or reading about it in the paper. The Barton BIA only heard about it when we told them about one month after the news broke in the Spectator.

We spoke with a staff at three injection sites, in Toronto, Ottawa and Niagara. One operated out of a community health centre, another from a homeless shelter, and the third was a stand-alone centre. Here are some key comments from our conversations:

- When one opened, three years ago, heroin was the drug of choice. Now fentanyl and synthetic cannabinoids dominate. This has led to more erratic and unpredictable behaviour of users.
- The composition of street drugs is often unknown. Twice a week one of the sites offers a lab service to check the chemical composition of drugs that clients bring to the site. It is a very popular service that has gone a long way to reassuring clients and staff. Clients, nervous about the safety of their supply, know what they're getting, and workers are able to stay current on trends in street drugs.
- The effects of synthetic drug consumption are often "atypical", according to the staff person. They don't know what to expect after consumption. Sometimes users pass out and naloxone



Figure 5 Morning drop off at PSSQL, on foot and by DARTS vehicles. The proposed injection clinic is ~30m away, indicated with the arrow.

¹⁰ TAN has attended two meetings (that we are aware of), both **organized by the community**.

¹¹ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/11/04/grey-cup-tim-hortons-field-cost.html>

¹² <https://globalnews.ca/news/4933910/hamilton-slippery-red-hill-parkway-report/>

¹³ <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2019/11/21/exclusive-hamilton-city-council-staff-have-kept-a-24-billion-litre-sewage-spill-secret.html>

doesn't work. They are sometimes reluctant to call EMS. They provide supplemental oxygen on-site.

- At one site with 11 injection stations, there was an incident where four clients became unconscious at the same time.
- They all discuss the challenges posed by the unsafe supply that is available to users.
- Conflicts between clients are more common and becoming more volatile. Issues arise due to money and drugs owed between parties. Staff need to intervene in these situations and clients are sometimes asked to leave. They presumably then consume their drugs nearby.
- There was a "bad incidents" with a needle in a play area not far from the CTS. There are incidences of clients sleeping outside. The centre deploys staff every 20 minutes to clear people who may be loitering nearby and to check for discarded needles.
- It was acknowledged that operating a consumption site as a stand-alone service would be very difficult.
- They spoke of their efforts to fully and transparently engage the community, and gave credit to an extensive 8-to-9-month process with the ultimate acceptance of the service in the community.

We also spoke with Sgt Morgan, a crime manager with the Hamilton Police Service. The service is unable to provide a position statement on consumption sites, but he was able to tell us that they have generally seen an increase in crime and indecent acts around the existing site, and that that has resulted in an increased police presence.

TAN has not demonstrated the capacity to engage with this community. Their strategy of withholding details on the site and its address (even from the ward councillor) have led to suspicions in the community. Instead of engaging the community, TAN has actively sought to discredit us personally and dismiss our concerns through social and mainstream media, all the while rallying public opinion against us by implying the neighbourhood does not think their clients "deserve to live". This has poisoned their credibility in the community - we have no confidence that the AIDS Network will come up with acceptable or effective community engagement plans. We believe TAN may use our efforts against us, and try to claim the meetings and correspondence initiated by the community as evidence of their own outreach.

CONCLUSION

We appreciate your consideration.

IN SUMMARY, our position is that this may be the right service, but it is the wrong location. Due diligence has not been exercised. We are living and working in one of the lowest socio-economic postal codes in the province, and we have exercised far greater scrutiny over this location than our own Board of Health, local councillor or the project proponent. The deficiencies outlined herein clearly show this has the potential to be a very bad news story.

This application needs to be rejected outright.

The City of Hamilton needs to be made aware that their endorsement of a CTS application requires more rigor. Shame on them for neglecting this responsibility.

TAN needs to go back to the drawing board to find a new location for their service.

Please contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan and Liz Duval for the neighbours and businesses on and around Barton Street
765-769 Barton St E, Hamilton
(905) 383-3704

APPENDIX A – November 8, 2021 e-mail from councillor Nringer Nann, Ward 3

Nann, Nringer

1:19 PM (4 hours ago)



Hi Walter, Bob and Lena,

Public Health informed myself and Ctr Farr of TAN's desire to pursue a location in Ward 3 in August this year, during a meeting when we reviewed the information that was coming to the Board of Health related to Hamilton's Drug Strategy.

I expressed my concern at this meeting and previous ones of an overconcentration of services in Ward 3 but was informed that data triangulates to emergency calls related to toxic drug use in this neighbourhood as both a growing and ongoing concern. The need continues to be highest in Ward 2, and it is my understanding that both the Interim Urban Core location will continue to serve the population in need in that area until to complete the build of their new location on Cannon St E. I also learned of the possibility of another CTS application coming forward for Ward 2 as well.

Given the data, it is essential to make evidence-based decisions to address health needs across the City. I stand by that and the need to support TAN's application to the Ministry, along with the whole of Hamilton Board of Health, based on Public Health data on the need for these services in Ward 3 growing.

Also in a meeting in the first week of August, I met with The Aids Network and they confirmed they were looking at a site on Barton Street in the Barnesdale area. I stressed the importance and necessity of robust community engagement and the need to get to know the neighbouring businesses, organizations and residents. They were not able to disclose to me at that time the exact address.

The final BoH report on the Comprehensive Opioid Response was uploaded to the City's website the week before the meeting on Oct 18th. I reviewed this report the weekend prior to the Monday meeting and the location - 746 Barton St was listed in Appendix B of the report. <https://pub.hamilton.ca/cibemastline.com/ilestream.php?DocumentId=289029> This is when I received confirmation of the exact address.

Yours in community,

Councillor Nringer Nann

She/Her

Ward 3 – City of Hamilton

City Hall – 71 Main Street West, Second Floor – Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y6

APPENDIX B – EMAIL TO ENTIRE CITY OF HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH, INCLUDING THE MAYOR AND MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH – NOT ONE REPLY OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS RECEIVED IN RETURN

Opposition to Board of Health endorsement of 746 Barton as a consumption site



Liz Duval

to elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca

Thu, Nov 4, 7:00
PM (5 days ago)

Dear Dr. Elizabeth Richardson,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at **746 Barton Street East** in Hamilton.

Recently the Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application for a supervised consumption site. I reviewed the video of the meeting and did not see any information presented, or any debate, regarding the exact address of the proposed site. The AIDS Network did not disclose the location as part of their presentation. I think you'd agree, the location of this service, which will require an exemption to the Criminal Code of Canada, is pretty important.

Did you know:

- **Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living**, an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities is only 30m away at **760 Barton St E?**
- **Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church** fronts onto Barton at **730 Barton St E?** In addition to religious services, they run children's programs.
- **St. Ann School is approximately 170m from the site.** Catholic School Board Chair Pat Daly was unaware of the proposed site until WE told him.
- **St. Ann Early Learning and Care Centre** is approximately **170m from the site.**
- **Norm**, our 78-year-old retired steel worker neighbour, who will not likely get market value for his house if this site goes in, **lives right next door.**
- This is a commercial district with numerous businesses.

NO ONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS CONSULTED ABOUT THIS, though we understand the proponent has been in talks with the landlord of the building since August. We read about it in the Spec AFTER BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL. Our Ward 3 councillor says she is too busy to meet with us. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

This is not the right location for this site and we are certain that the Board of Health would never have provided its endorsement if more details were known. The executive director of PSSQL is very concerned that families will pull their participants out of programs due to safety concerns. There is a deficit of services for adults with intellectual disabilities - it would be tragic if the introduction of a service (the consumption site) resulted in the closure of an agency that serves an even more vulnerable segment of the population. Surely this cannot be the intent here.

Sorry for all the bold and caps, but we're feeling so frustrated and unheard in this community. We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street, at 765 Barton E, and live upstairs. We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that virtually no consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We can't count on our Ward 3 councillor and are hoping you will care enough to re-open this discussion.

We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,
Liz Duval



APPENDIX C – TAN NOVEMBER 21, 2021 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

TAN CTS
15h · 🌐

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged.
Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca

The Hamilton Spectator
Yesterday at 7:50 AM · 🌐

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid... See more



thespec.com
Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

♥ The AIDS Network liked

TAN CTS @CTSatTAN · 15h

Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt @TheSpec @TeviahMoro

Hamilton Spectator @TheSpec · Nov 21

Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, @TeviahMoro reports #HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG50GSAF8

APPENDIX C – TAN NOVEMBER 21, 2021 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

TAN CTS
Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged.
Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca

The Hamilton Spectator
Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid... See more



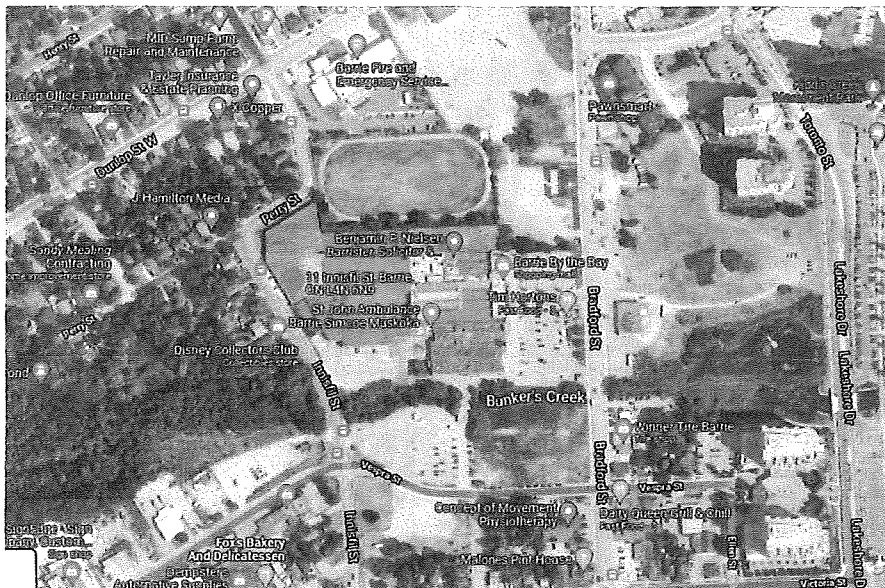
THE SPEC.COM
Catholic school board, Barton Street neighbours oppose proposed Hamilton supervised drug use site

The AIDS Network liked
TAN CTS @CTSatTAN · 15h
Fact - reached out to several that were mentioned in this article over the past few months w/o any response or engagement. Frustrating to have that not be acknowledged. Have questions or concerns? Reach out to us here or cts@aidnetwork.ca. #HamOnt
[@TheSpec](#) [@TeviahMoro](#)

Hamilton Spectator @TheSpec · Nov 21
Hamilton council has endorsed a second supervised drug use site, but Barton Street neighbours — including the Catholic school board — are resisting the plan amid a deadly opioid crisis, [@TeviahMoro](#) reports #HamOnt
torstar.co/zLeG5OGSAF8



For contrast on site location. Proposed site in Sudbury for CTS under review by Exemptions Canada.
 Note location is industrial with no schools nearby.



Proposed CTS in Barrie under review by Exemptions Canada. No schools nearby and in and industrial area.



100 King Street West, 14th Floor
 Hamilton ON L8P 1A2
 www.hamilton.ca

Hamilton

Public Works Department
 Environmental Services Division
 Landscape Architectural Services
 905-546-2424 ext 2292 (Telephone)
 Victoria.Cox@hamilton.ca

PLEASE JOIN US VIRTUALLY!

Woodlands Park Spray Pad - 1st Public Information Centre

Dear Residents:

The City of Hamilton's Landscape Architectural Services Section invites you to the first Public Information Centre 'PIC' to review feedback from the survey that closed on November 9th 2021 and to review preliminary design options for the Woodlands Park spray pad project. Woodlands Park is an existing 2.13 hectare Neighbourhood Park located at 501 Barton Street East within Ward 3 in the City of Hamilton. It is one of the City's oldest parks and currently contains several amenities including a playground, outdoor fitness equipment, a soccer field, multi-use court, a field house building and parking lot.

PIC Details

Date: Tuesday, December 7th 2021

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

This event will be co-hosted with the Ward 3 office virtually through Webex. You can join us via a landline, cell phone or computer and no special software or camera is needed.

Please visit the following link to register for the PIC and learn more about the project:

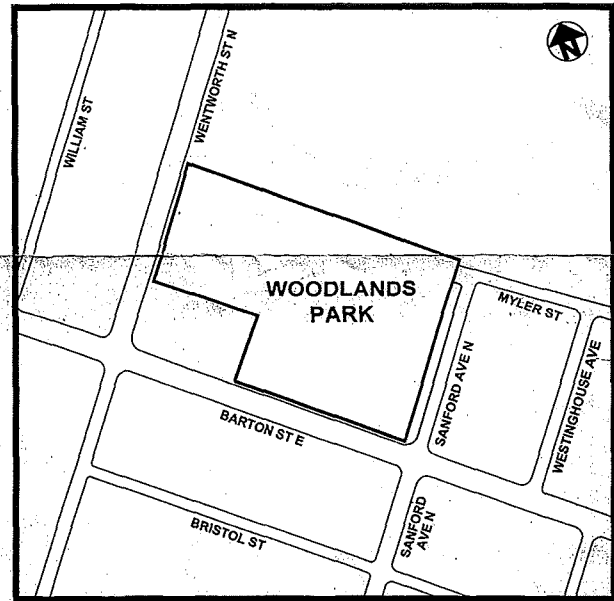
engage.hamilton.ca/woodlandspark

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first on-line survey, we received a lot of valuable feedback! We look forward to your participation in the PIC meeting.

If you have any questions or wish to reach out directly, please contact Victoria Cox, Project Manager, using the information provided in the signature below.

Respectfully,

Victoria Cox
 Landscape Architectural Services, Public Works.
 Tel: (905) 546-2424 x 2292
 Victoria.Cox@hamilton.ca



Supervised drug consumption sites save lives

October 20, 2021 | Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada)

Page: A12 | Section: Editorial

593 Words

Let's start with this: Supervised injection and consumption sites, where users of intravenous and other hard drugs can consume their own supply in a safer and supervised environment, save lives, connect people to social services and serve as gateways to addiction treatment.

That is not speculation. A mountain of evidence, from Canada and around the world, supports the above statement as fact. In short, such facilities provide a clean and safe place for people to consume their own drugs while being monitored by trained staff. Those experts help prevent accidental overdoses, as well as stop the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV. Supervised consumption sites also provide access to health and social services, including substance abuse treatment, and they offer other services such as checking drug supplies for safety.

For some of us, including those who have limited or no experience with addictions and in particular with hard drug use, this may seem like a paradox in a way. Why would we support and fund a facility that makes it easier for people to take part in behaviour we know is self-destructive?

The answer can be found in harm reduction principles and practice. These are a set of practical ideas and strategies that recognize the value of reducing negative consequences of drug use: The value to users, the health system, the community overall.

This is not about endorsing opioids and other drugs. It is about recognizing that past policies of zero tolerance and "Just say no ..." have failed to eliminate the problem. Now we have a crisis with opioid consumption and overdoses. This is about recognizing we cannot stop that, but we can reduce the negative outcomes.

Sadly, Hamilton provides a perfect example. Our city had Ontario's fifth highest opioid-related death rate in 2020 - 29 per cent higher than the provincial rate. Opioid-related emergency department visits last year were 38 per cent higher than the provincial rate. Overdose calls to Hamilton Paramedic Services have been steadily increasing - there were 594 in the first eight months of this year, compared to 565 for all of 2020. Between January 2020 and March, 2021, 96 per cent of opioid-related deaths were found to be accidental, according to data from the Office of the Chief Coroner. Some of those deaths, beyond any question, could have been prevented by a supervised consumption site facility.

So it is little wonder that Hamilton's board of health is fully behind a bid for a second supervised consumption site to help meet the demand now falling entirely on the site operated by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. City health officials have been pursuing a location for the second site for two-and-a-half years, with no

Bid for second safe consumption site gets wide support

October 19, 2021 | Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada)

Author/Byline: Joanna Frketich The Hamilton Spectator Joanna Frketich is a Hamilton-based reporter covering health for The Spectator. Reach her via email: jfrketich@thespec.com | Page: A1,A5 | Section: Local / News
706 Words

Hamilton's board of health unanimously put its full support behind a bid for a second safe consumption site as opioid overdoses and deaths continue to increase at what one councillor called an "alarming and unacceptable rate."

The AIDS Network is in the process of applying to the Ministry of Health for a consumption and treatment services (CTS) location at 746 Barton St. E.

"There is an urgent need," executive director Tim McClellmont told the board Monday.

Hamilton's first site at 71 Rebecca St. was approved in March 2019 and is run by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre. It's expected to temporarily move in December to 70 James St. S before relocating permanently to 430 Cannon St. E. in September 2023.

The city has pursued a second site for more than two and a half years, but public health couldn't find a location, leaving it to the AIDS Network to finally fill the gap.

"It was totally disheartening and totally unacceptable that none of our private partners for space were willing to come forward," said Coun. Nringer Nann. "If it was up to me we would have them integrated into all the pharmacies and remove the stigma."

Nann described the number of deaths in Hamilton from opioids as "staggering."

"Unsafe supply is leading to death at a total alarming and unacceptable rate in our community," she said.

Grim statistics were provided to the board Monday by public health on the sharp rise in drug related emergency department visits, hospital admissions, overdoses, and deaths in the past five years with the trend mostly attributed to opioid related poisoning and fentanyl:

Monthly overdose calls to Hamilton Paramedic Services has steadily increased to 594 in the first eight months of 2021 compared to 565 for all of 2020.

Hamilton's rate of opioid-related emergency department visits was 38 per cent higher than the province in 2020. In the first three months of 2021 alone, there were 228 opioid-related emergency department visits.

Of confirmed opioid-related deaths in Hamilton from January 2020 to March 2021, 96 per cent were accidental, found preliminary data from the Office of the Chief Coroner. Deaths were primarily among those age 25 to 44 years, followed by those age 45 to 64. Fentanyl was the most common type of opioid contributing to accidental overdose deaths while 79 per cent overall were street drugs.

Hamilton had Ontario's fifth highest opioid-related death rate in 2020 at 29 per cent above the provincial rate.

Opioid overdoses are concentrated in the lower central areas in wards 2 and 3, which account for more than two-thirds of paramedic calls.

Despite the opioid crisis, the budget for the Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Services and Community Mental Health Promotion Program isn't increasing.

"It's not unique to this year that this particular program area with these funding sources don't necessarily see increases," said Michelle Baird, director of the epidemiology, wellness and communicable disease control division at public health. "We are continuing to try to maintain the services we have with the budget that doesn't

NO, the location is wrong for a CTS site

The process has lacked transparency and community consultation

LIZ DUVAL AND WALTER FURLAN

No one is saying people do not deserve to live. Rhetorical questions about being on the right side of history serve to distract from the issue at hand.

We do not disagree consumption sites can be part of a harm reduction approach. They are not, however, without significant challenges. They require an exemption to federal law, since clients bring their own, illegally acquired, drugs to the site. The province recognizes schools and daycare centres as special stakeholders due to inherent risks. Saying "There are those who simply do not want the CTS site to open anywhere near their home, business or organization," is an oversimplification. It is reasonable for a community to be concerned and have questions.

In March 2020, the City of Hamilton rejected 29 potential consumption sites. The locations under consideration were never made public, nor were the evaluation criteria. In October 2021, the city unanimously approved a proposal by the AIDS Network (TAN), to set up a site at 746 Barton St. E. They asked not one question about the location, its possible impact on the community or any neighbourhood concerns.

Had they asked, they would have discovered that 746 Barton is sandwiched between two residential properties. It's right across the street from a small gym where a former Olympian runs recreation programs for kids. It's less than 40 metres from an agency that provides a day program for young people with developmental disabilities, a cultural community centre, a church, their cultural school and a school of dance. It's about 175 metres from a Catholic elementary school and daycare centre, two more churches and a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. It's just over 200 metres from two other public board schools. It is in a business district, and backs onto a residential neighbourhood. People here walk to shops, amenities and schools.

TAN says it applied to open the site "this summer," yet it admits it didn't disclose the location until after board of health approval at the end of Octo-

ber to avoid "a lot of controversy or conflict." What it accomplished is the opposite. We found out about the initiative in The Spectator — this is not how you do community engagement.

TAN still hasn't organized a meeting for the community, preferring online sessions and surveys, but it has attended a few meetings organized and hosted by the neighbourhood. At one meeting concerns were dismissed as "NIMBY"-ism. TAN has also actively sought to discredit our concerns in social media. We get multiple mail-outs from the city about a splash pad going in one kilometre away, yet no one at the city will answer our calls or emails on a consumption site.

We understand it is difficult to find an appropriate location for this type of service. Councillor Nrinder Nann has voiced her disappointment that none of the initiative's private partners for space were willing to come forward.

Where was Hamilton Health Sciences, a robust publicly funded institution with the infrastructure and professionals to handle these complex cases when the consumption site was being planned? By the way, the Urban Core Community Health Centre is relocating its current consumption site to a location about 15 km away from the location on Barton. Why, when public health's own data clearly shows opioid-related EMS calls are highest in Ward 2, will Ward 3 end up with two permanent consumption sites and Ward 2 none? This is not an evidence-based approach and poor stewardship of taxpayer dollars. It seems the only location criteria today is a willing landlord.

It's minimizing to disparage our neighbourhood's understanding of this issue by saying we're simply against the service. We are not. We live with these issues every day. This process has lacked transparency and good-faith consultation with the community. We are saying it's the wrong location.

LIZ DUVAL AND WALTER FURLAN LIVE AND HAVE OPERATED THEIR BUSINESS FOR 10 YEARS ACROSS FROM THE PROPOSED SITE ON BARTON STREET. THEY CARE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY.


To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Attached is some data we can discuss when we meet.

We were made aware of the potential site at Barton in August through a meeting with TAN.

[Quoted text hidden]

 **OpioidResponse_NeighbourhoodInfo.pdf**
949K

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 12:45 PM

To: Michael Mecca [REDACTED]

I just received this. The data seems to support our case. What do you think?

[Quoted text hidden]

 **OpioidResponse_NeighbourhoodInfo.pdf**
949K

Castro-Garcia, Carolina [REDACTED]

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 1:05 PM

To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]

Hi Walter,

I regret to inform you that Michelle is not feeling well and will have to reschedule this meeting. She will however emailing you the data and can discuss when she's there.

Does Monday work for you at 3:45pm or Friday Morning next week.

Thanks,



Carolina Castro-Garcia

905-546-2424 ext. 4886

The City of Hamilton encourages physical distancing and increased handwashing. Learn more about the City's response to COVID-19 www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus

[Quoted text hidden]

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
To: "Baird, Michelle" <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>
Cc: "Castro-Garcia, Carolina" <Carolina.Castro-Garcia@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 2:47 PM

Hello Michelle

Could you also provide any information in relation to the rejected sites over the past 2 1/2 years. I believe there were something like 25 sites that were considered and all were rejected.

Thank you
Walter

[Quoted text hidden]

Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>
To: Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
Cc: "Castro-Garcia, Carolina" <Carolina.Castro-Garcia@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 4:39 PM

Hi Walter,

Yes, there were a number of sites explored. I don't have exact numbers but it's in that range. As you know much of the work was done exploring sites located within ward 2 and unfortunately for various reasons none were successful. Some were just not able to accommodate the programming needed from a size perspective, some properties had landlords without willingness to proceed and others were too close in proximity to settings such as schools. It was welcome news that TAN had secured a location that met the program needs and had a willing landlord supporting the site. There were many reasons they weren't successful. We can discuss further when we meet.

[Quoted text hidden]

Walter Furlan [REDACTED]
To: "Baird, Michelle" <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 7:14 PM

Hi Michelle

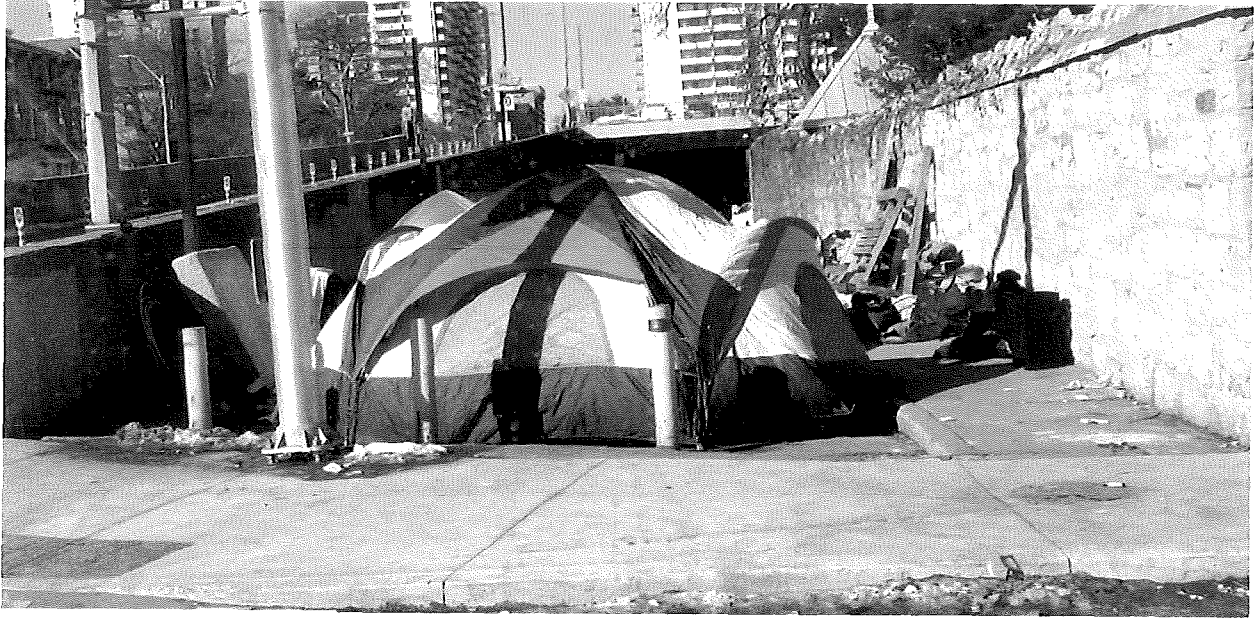
Are you able to let me know when you were made aware of 746 as a potential location?
I also hope you can expand on the unsuccessful sites in relation to proximity to settings such as schools.

Thank you and I'm looking forward to meeting with you tomorrow.
Walter

[Quoted text hidden]

Baird, Michelle <Michelle.Baird@hamilton.ca>

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 12:32 PM



YWCA CTS FEB 23

*Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church
15 St. Olga Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 6R3
(905) 545-2914 e-mail: ira.protsiv@hsucc.ca*

16 November 2021

Dear City Counsel and to whom it may concern,

On behalf of Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Church, its members and committee, we would like to express our deep concerns regarding the City of Hamilton endorsement of a supervised consumption site at 746 Barton Street East.

The proposed location is less than 80 meters from the parish which is why this has been the main concern of our church and its members since the announcement was released. We are of the opinion that the City did not consult with the community before approving this location and failed to assess the inevitable risks associated with such a site.

The parish is located on the front steps of Barton Street East, a community that has been dealing with crime, drugs, human trafficking and poverty for years. We acknowledge that as a society, we need to help those who need us most, but having these kinds of services, although much needed, so close to schools, businesses that have been struggling for some time now is irresponsible. The presence of Police in the area is noticed daily especially in the alleyways and many hidden passages around Barton Street of this proposed site. These hidden spots have always been primary grounds for drug use and various paraphernalia can be located on any given day.

On the evening of November 11th, 2021, minutes before our monthly committee meeting took place to discuss this topic, we discovered an attempted entry into our lower banquet hall. A closer look at video surveillance revealed two suspects damaging the glass door. This is a pattern that the parish has been dealing with on a regular basis and we are concerned that the situation will become worse. History has shown that after the establishment of such injection site, the crime in the area increases dramatically. Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair quoted "I don't know of any place in the city where a safe injection site couldn't have a significant negative impact on the community".

We are very worried that this will affect the attendance of our parishioners as well as children's programs. We have the dance group Barvinok take practice regularly, and other children programs. There is great concern about children's safety once the injection site opens.

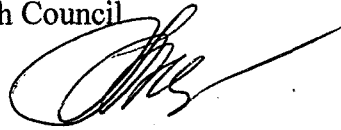
The burden of opioid misuse, addiction and overdose in Hamilton is an urgent problem and we fully support helping our most vulnerable population. It is of strong opinion that the location of such safe injection site was chosen carelessly and without the collaboration of the community; we are asking to consider a different location for this purpose. Our parish has been struggling to keep its doors open for some time as attendance decreases from year to year, the close proximity of this chosen location inevitably risks our livelihood.

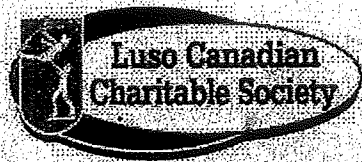
Thank you and God Bless.

Father Roman Trynoga

Holy Spirit Church Council

Iryna Protsiv

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iryna Protsiv', written over a horizontal line.



Luso Support Centre of Hamilton

(Portuguese Support Services for Quality Living)

760 Barton Street East Hamilton, ON L8L 3B1 – www.lusoccs.org

Phone: 905-522-4612 Email: info.echo@lusoccs.org



Thank You to our Ambassadors and Distinctive Contributors

Ambassadors

A.C.E. Local 1030

Alcino Antunes

Bastos Manuel & Maria

Botelho Emily

Deso Construction Limited

Hamilton Paving Inc.

LIUNA Local 506

Mancinelli Joseph & Enza

Ribeiro Jacinta

Exceptional Contributors

Government of Azores

IUPAT District Council 46

LIUNA Local 183

LIUNA Local 837

Roysun Contracting Inc.

Target Drywall & Acoustics

Exceptional Fundraising Initiatives

Amigas das Malassadas

November 11, 2021

To whom it may concern:

A project for an Opioid Safe Site is planned for 746 Barton St. East. While we agree that the community needs this type of support, there must be consideration given to area community members and/or other services existent in the area.

Portuguese Support Services (soon to be Luso Support Centre) offers a large day program for adults with developmental disabilities located at 760 Barton Street East. Our Centre is located 38m from the proposed site (746 Barton St. East).

This community supports the integration of our participants and grows with their contribution. Some volunteer at several businesses, others do shopping and eat at the restaurants including (O Leao, now open at the location in question). They also participate in community clean up and festivals; attend Tiger-Cats practices; are regular users of the parks nearby, among other things. The program is based at the Centre, but dependent of the surrounding community for activity diversity and personal growth/integration. Staff and participants of the program can be seen regularly walking on the area streets.

Learning from reports from other cities, Opioid Safe Sites can bring scenarios to the area that are both unsafe and scary for the participants of our program. We are already faced with heavy police presence in the area which frightens them and restricts our ability to go out.

Given the fact that the population we serve is vulnerable and having already faced a lockdown due to crime on the street, we believe bringing an Opioid Safe Site that close to our Centre threatens the safety and wellbeing of our population.

By sharing the concerns of the families we serve, we hope that the proposed project finds a better location to serve the community.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jacinta.echo@lusoccs.org or 905 522 4612.

Sincerely,

Jacinta Ribeiro,
Executive Director
Luso Support Centre of Hamilton

Holy Spirit Ukrainian
Saturday School
15 Saint Olga St.
Hamilton, ON L8L 6R3

Ward 3 Councillor

November 16, 2021

Trinder Nann

Hamilton Centre MPP

Andrea Horvath

Dear Political Representatives,

RE: Proposed Injection Site at 746 Bart St E in Hamilton ON

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Saturday School is a member of the International Languages Programme through the Hamilton Separate School system. For the past ten years we have run our language school from our site at Holy Spirit Ukrainian Church every Saturday from September to the end of May. Our children come from across all sections of Hamilton, Stoney Creek as well as Burlington and Brantford. We are currently in lockdown because of Covid-19.


It has taken us a number of years to gather our pupils and to encourage our parents to send them to us for additional school time on Saturdays as it is a commitment for both parents and children. Our programme was thriving prior to the Covid shut down.

Just recently we have been advised through a number of different business as well as private neighbourhood conversations that the City of Hamilton is planning to open a Safe Injection Site within meters of our school. We are extremely concerned about this decision as it may negatively impact our ability to reconvene our school and to convince our parents that their children will be safe in our care.

The area of Barton Street near the proposed site has long been a depressed and struggling business section. In recent years we have watched as new stores have begun to open up between Sherman and Lottridge Streets and it would be a great disappointment to see this new revitalization initiative stymied because of this proposed decision.

Please consider all points of view as you go forward with this proposal.

Yours truly



Irena Wojtow-Dmyterko

Holy Spirit Ukrainian Saturday School Director



St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish

Parafia Św. Stanisława Kostki

W służbie Bogu i Polonii od 1912 roku

November 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Proposed CTS Site for Hamilton's Ward 3

With this letter I would like to voice my concern over a proposed CTS site at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. The proposed location is situated merely 170 m from our Church and Parish Hall, which are the heart of Hamilton's Polish community, its religious and cultural centre. Nearly 10 000 people (3,200 families) are registered in our Church and use its programs and venues regularly. We hold 13 regularly scheduled religious services each week, not counting additional services like funerals, baptisms and weddings - slightly over a hundred of these performed each year. Our Parish also runs various youth and senior groups, organizes cultural and social events, and is a home for other numerous outreach and community-oriented groups and initiatives, such as AA, CWL, KofC, Street Ministry Outreach for the Poor and Homeless, etc. In the near future we are planning to open a licensed daycare centre which will be run by the Missionary Sisters of Christ the King who are ministering in our community. On a weekly basis, on average, our church is visited by approximately 2000 people who come from near and far to benefit from what our parish and the neighbouring Polish businesses have to offer related to their faith and culture.

Having said this, many of these regularly attending people have expressed to me (by email, in person, and through numerous signed petitions) their deep concerns regarding the vicinity of the proposed CTS site. They fear for their own wellbeing and safety, that of their elderly parents/grandparents, their children, as well as the physical/material wellbeing of our church and neighbourhood. They have put countless volunteer hours and financial means into making our Church and Hall safe and accessible to all, hoping their care and effort will add to the ongoing revitalization of our struggling neighbourhood. These people, mostly immigrants themselves, are questioning not only the location of this Safe Injection Site, but also the sincerity of its supporters, as there was absolutely no consultation, honest discussion or straightforward information shared with the local residents, businesses, schools and churches by the applicants.

I value and share the opinion of my parishioners both in the matter of the location of the proposed CTS, which I, too, deem wrong, and regarding the lack of transparency in the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Father Michał Kruszewski, C.R.,
Pastor

8 Saint Ann Street
Hamilton, ON L8L 6P8

Tel: (905) 544 0726

Fax: (905) 544 8783

E-mail: stankostka@cogeco.ca

www.stankostka.ca



689 Barton St.E. Hamilton, ON L8L 3A5
<http://www.immigrantart.org>
Email: icaa@immigrantart.com

15 November, 2021

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Canada Revenue Charities Branch Manager:

It has been brought to our attention that the government has decided to establish a safe injection site near our office and gallery at Barton St. E. in Hamilton.

The Immigrant Culture and Art Association (ICAA) are a divers art and culture organization and educational facility that helps immigrant youth to access arte education in our gallery space.

Our office and galley space is a place for newly arrived immigrant families, their children and elders to attend exhibition openings and art classes. We believe that the introduction of an injection site near schools, art centres and community centres is not a sustainable and safe decision.

Since we were not consulted on the process we therefore declare our opposition to this initiative. We are hoping that the government will assign a safe and supervised location for the injection.

Best wishes,

Marufa Shinwari
Ph.D.C. MAA, BLL
ICAA - Past Executive Director

2021



767-769 Barton Street East
Hamilton L8L 3A9
905-383-3704

waterconservation@gmail.com
furlanconservation.wordpress.com

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Trudeau

CONSERVATION

RE: Federal Exemption for Proposed CTS 746 Barton Street East Hamilton, Ontario

I am writing to you today as a business owner, resident, lifelong Hamiltonian and Canadian.

My wife and I own and operate a heritage conservation business out of 3 storefronts on Barton St in Hamilton. I reside with my wife above our shop in which we have invested heavily to restore.

WE DO NOT OPPOSE THE CTS SERVICE. We express opposition to the location of the site. It is inappropriate.

We choose to live here because of the diversity of the community. Indigenous, people of colour, and all sort of socio-economic persons reside here and contribute to this country.

I currently have 2 children serving in the RCAF. One a Captain he is charge of Griffon helicopter repairs, the ones currently being deployed in B.C. Another son a firefighter in Greenwood.

I am one of the few of Italian heritage that have settled here on Barton that did not listen to their parents' advice and leave to a more affluent area. I believe and care about this street and community.

I mention this because we are a family of service to this community and country.

Most people looking from the outside looking in think this community is poor, stupid and on drugs.

People that believe this sadly include our local politicians, medical and others that have predisposed that we would happily accept an injection site in this neighbourhood. They have no or little understanding of this community and they have seriously underestimated the people in this community.

In this area thriving churches, schools, daycares, seniors, services for young adults with intellectual challenges. A former Canadian Olympic boxer running a school for inner city kids, an African Caribbean club, thriving businesses and more.

This proposed CTS site is within 200 meters of all the above. Some are even closer.

There is more, the city and the proponents of the CTS, the Aids Network have not outreached at all to anyone in this community. Further they have attacked us viciously on social media saying that we were contacted but have not responded.

This is a deep disrespect of this community Mr. Prime Minister. Please have your people investigate this.

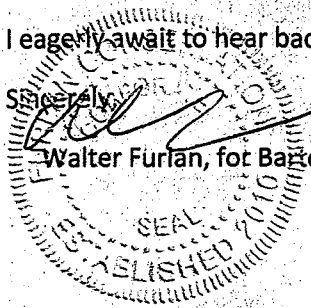
We are asking you to intervene directly in this matter. We ask that the federal approval to the Controlled Drug and Substances Act 56.1 application for CTS at 746 Barton Street Hamilton not be approved. We have over 1000 pen to paper signatures in opposition to the proposed location.

We are prepared to leverage the awakening of this community to it fullest. Please keep in mind that this is where industrial unionism was born in this country, a short way down the street from here. We are a resilient and self-reliant people.

I eagerly await to hear back from you Mr. Prime Minister as time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Walter Furlan, for Barton Street and Country.



To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter today with great concern about the proposed safe injection site at 746 Barton Street East Hamilton. As a business owner and property owner less than 10 meters away, I am deeply concerned that this chosen site is not the right location for this type of service. The area that the proposed site is going, is between Barnsedale ave and Lottridge street. This area has recently seen an influx in businesses, shops and restaurants. The area is becoming a safe, nice place for people to live and business owners to invest. Many of the current businesses rely on walk up business and depend on a clean, safe neighborhood to operate. The addition of the safe injection site will directly affect the revenue and longevity of these businesses. There are a list of business owners who are very upset about this and are worried that their livelihood will be taken away from them, myself included. As tax paying citizens and business owners we feel we are justified in attempting to block this from happening. The property and business owners have single handedly revitalized this area through injecting their own money into the beautification of the properties that line this block as well as creating businesses that attract people from all over the city to come and spend their taxed dollars in this area. The residential units above these businesses have mostly been renovated and we have attracted blue collar workers, as well as many young professionals. This injection site will directly reverse all the good this neighborhood has witnessed. People will not want to come down to a café or restaurant with potential to have dangerous activities happen. I personally have two tenants who are already very concerned and thinking they may want to live elsewhere if this happens. These are both young professionals who spend their tax dollars on the pie shop, the restaurant, the bakery, the café, the appliance store, the restoration shop, not to mention the rest of the businesses in the area. There are also two very sought after programs that two businesses offer, where people from all over the city and outside of the city come to bring their families and individuals in need of these services. Both business owners were at the meeting with the ward counselor, as well as parents of the affected children in these programs who were crying, and these folks were all ignored. There are also schools and churches within this community that are outraged.

As a business and property owner in this area, as well as a long time Hamilton citizen, I am not seeing how this sort of decision is fair or warranted in this vicinity? How was this area considered? With the revitalization of this specific block, how can we as Hamiltonians as well as business owners sit back and let our hard work, determination and resiliency all be lost after working so hard to make this street great again? The owner of the proposed injection site is trying to uproot the café that has an existing lease there and brings tax paying citizens into her business regularly. Does this seem fair that we are uprooting a successful business to bring in an injection site that will not only displace that business but also bring down the revenue of the other existing businesses?

I am not here to argue one way or the other whether an injection site is needed or improves the city, I just know it will be a detriment to this specific area, and that requires consideration. Please take the time to consider this and help prevent this from happening. There are better site areas that can be arranged. If needed I can look at providing a better option.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Maggio

December 6th 2021

RE: 746 BARTON CTS LOCATION INAPPRORRIATE

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the Aids Network at 746 Barton Street East in Hamilton. I am not against an injection site but I do not think this is the right area.

My biggest concern is that there are schools, churches, daycare, children walking past the site to go to school, and an agency that provides a day program to young adults with development and intellectual disables just approximately 40 meters from the proposed site.

According to the media in other cities in Canada there has been an increase in crime, overdoses, also the presence of drug dealers.

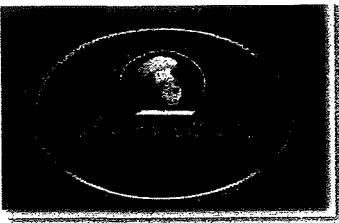
I am a 78-year-old senior who will be living right next door to this site and there is another residence with 3 tenants on the other side. How are we supposed to protect our families? Are we supposed to board up our windows? lock our doors and never go outside to enjoy the comforts of our outdoor space?

Leaders have forgotten who worked hard to build this city live in this community and have retired here. How much more can this community take we have 3 cannabis stores, and 3 methadone labs in this area already.

I am disappointed in City Council and the Board of Health for not having any concern for the safety of their citizens.

Norman Robinson





762 Barton Street East Hamilton L8L 3B1

Tel: (905) 544-2730

Fax: (905) 544-4043

karlikpastry@gmail.com

04.11.2021

To Whom It May Concern:

This concern letter is my screaming voice addressed to the organizations and individual people who make this unbelievably terrible decision to open Injection site on our Barton corridor, 746 Barton Str East with out of clear picture how that facility will effect our enough struggle community.

My husband and I owned bakery for last seven years and we become part neighbor watch community and know that the future and safety for our children and elders become firs.

Around our bakery we have 5 plus schools, 6 churches and many front store businesses that due the pandemic facing challenges with flow.

If you like to have clear pictured how this site affects us, please go by walking to Rebecca and John Street in Hamilton where is the similar Injection site. It's very dangerous to the people that not effected by drugs.

In the back we have ally that has been use for parking and has been lock by all neighbors.

For all this years we build the trust with our costumers and you wont to destroyed it.

WE ALL CARE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If in this moment you are have need to open Injection site as medical help to the people, then look for the location that are closer to the hospital and has no schools and churches around.

Regards,
Luba Mudrak

November 13, 2021

Board of Health,
City of Hamilton

To whom it may Concern,

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SAFE INJECTION SITE 746 BARTON STREET EAST BETWEEN BARNESDALE AVE. N. AND LOTTRIDGE

A proposed Safe Injection Site by The Aids Network is planned for 746 Barton St. E., Ward 3 Neighborhood. I object to this proposed site given approval by the Mayor, City Council and the Health Department without any consideration, consultation or research on this project with the residents of this Area of Ward 3. The business owners and residents of this area of Ward 3 have done a great deal of work to improve the street, properties and alleyways but were not consulted. The residents and business owners found out about the proposed Injection Site by a small notice by The Aids Network in the Spectator with no mention of the address. As well, a representative of TAN passed a business card out to one of the residents at the corner of Barnesdale and Barton. This resident is a 79-year-old retired Steelworker and is next door to the proposed site. What does this do to the value of his property and the personal security of both himself and his wife?

This proposed site is 170 meters from St. Ann's Elementary School and Day Care. Prince of Wales Elementary School on Lottridge and Bernie Custis High School on Cannon St. are close by the proposed site. Good Shepherd, who put forward a letter of support for the site not knowing the location recently opened a Home Program in the former Ukrainian Elementary School. There are three churches close by on Barton St. between Barnesdale and Sherman Ave. N. where many seniors and families attend religious services. The older children from St. Ann's and Prince of Wales walk to MacDonald's at the corner of Lottridge and Barton as well the Polish Deli on Barton Street for lunch. Also, located two doors down from 746 Barton is the Afro Canadian Caribbean Association at 752 - 754 which provides programs and services for youth, families and seniors. Portuguese Support Services offer a large day program for adults with developmental disabilities located at 760 Barton Street East. This center is located 38 m from the proposed site. Some of the clients' volunteer at several businesses, shop and eat at the local restaurants. They also participate in community clean up and activities in the area as well attend Tiger-Cat practices and users of nearby parks. Staff and participants of the program can be seen walking on the area streets.

Many families who have loved ones take part in programs at both of those important centers have stated their loved ones will not attend due to safety concerns if the proposed injection site is approved. The Chairs of both school boards did not know about the proposed site until contacted by myself and Walter Furlan, Furlan Conservation 765 - 767 Barton Street East. TAN has given misleading information on this proposed injection site. There are two Barton #2 bus routes close to 746 - one going east and one going west. Many seniors and young families use city transit. Many seniors in this neighborhood walk to McDonalds for coffee or meet their friends for lunch and walk by 746 Barton. One senior I know lives on Beechwood 84 years old and walks to Freshco at Gage and Barton as well as McDonalds. I have put in calls to Clr. Nann over two weeks ago and no response until Friday past but no direct conversation only an e-mail that she will be attending a meeting on Nov. 16 at the Portuguese Centre. I also sent an email to the Mayor, no response. I left a message for Elizabeth Richardson no response.

I spoke with Jeff Valentine, the owner of the property at 746 Barton and he informed me that he is in favor of the site and TAN approached him over 1 1/2 years ago to lease this space. The City of Hamilton within the past couple of weeks sent a notice to residents by Canada Post deliver concerning a proposed splash pad at Woodlands Park which is located at Wentworth St. and has no bearing on our neighborhood. Did our neighborhood not deserved the same respect in having notice and consultations on this proposed injection site? Why is this part of Barton St. which is upcoming where business owners and property owners take pride in keeping it clean? What council and the health department are doing is inviting illegal drug dealers to the area. We have walked this area including alleyways daily for over twenty years without problems and the only needle discovered was about two months ago at the corner of Rosemont and Lottridge across from Prince of Wales School, my husband saw one on the street. My husband walks our puppy every morning at 7 - 7:30 through alleyways along Barton St., Ruth, Sherman, Barnesdale, Lottridge, Lucy Day Park, alley from Sherman to Powell Park and only saw that one needle at Rosemont and Lottridge.

About two weeks ago, I had an appointment for the Spinal Clinic at Urban Core, which has a safe injection site. I could not enter the building without knocking on the door for a worker to unlock the front door and let me inside.

When I was finished my appointment, I had to wait inside for my husband Bob to pick me up and take me home. I was informed by a worker to wait inside because of safety concerns for me outside due to people having mental health issues and high on drugs. The door is locked for the safety of staff inside. The garbage and other things outside of the Urban Core building were disgusting especially with people harassing other people walking by or coming into the building. Yesterday, November 13, approximately 4:30, my husband Bob and myself were driving along Rebecca St. and noticed on the sidewalk outside of the Urban Core some people were trying to drag a person off the street so a vehicle would not hit the person. I have attached a picture and a picture of the garbage at the end of the building to my e-mail. Is this what Hamilton City Council, the Mayor and Health Department want for us in this part of Ward 3? Would you, Dr. Richardson, the Mayor or other council members want a safe injection site close to where you live and your children go to school, church or other activities like Ticats football game? I don't think so. We have lived in this part of Ward 3 for 28 years and have not witnessed a problem with street drugs? By approving this site at 746 Barton St. shows you have no concern or respect for the residents or business of this neighborhood in Ward 3.

We are not against Safe Injection Site but not in our neighborhood. This part of Barton St. is up and coming very busy with traffic and cannot handle the problems the injection site would bring to it. Who would pay for policing, EMS, clean up etc. with the many problems it could create? The alleyway behind 746 cannot be closed due to fire regulations.

Please respect our wishes and concerns do not approve this site at 746 Barton St. E. for the owner it is just a business deal without consequences.

Thank you.

Lena Sutton



M

MANDI LOWTHIAN SMITH

6:49 PM (3 hours ago)

to mayor@hamilton.ca, Ward3@hamilton.ca, me, Brenda

TAN Presentation 9:30 am Monday Feb. 13/23

I discovered on Sunday Feb. 13 at 18:00 that this group was presenting on a matter directly relevant to my fellow constituents with virtually no notice.

I submit that you all have short memories.

This writer, along with fellow constituents, made a clear point about being given very short notice on directly relevant matters such as the Tiny Huts proposal less than 60 days ago. All of you with exception of the Mayor were present and presumably in concordance.

This writer is presently 300 km away hosting a Superbowl party.

The proposal being discussed, if it comes to pass, places a Safe Injection Site within 200 m of a disabled Senior, families, and the inevitable small army of little kids.

This writer therefore submits that she is forced to conclude that Councillor Nann erred in not engaging us.

Again.

We have been entirely reasonable during both the HATS initiative and now this. This writer has had a first degree relative who was an IV drug user, and knew people with AIDS. Like you, we are trying to do the right thing for all concerned.

Because of the emergency nature of this email, I would encourage fellow constituents to submit their opinions posthaste.

Thank you
Merci.
Migwech

----- Original message -----

From: ebishop [REDACTED]
Date: 2023-02-12 5:39 p.m. (GMT-05:00)
To: mayor@hamilton.ca
Subject: Clean injection site ward 3

I Ernest Bishop of 36 Rosemont ave. I'm also a constitute of ward 3 for 50 year. I have seen many changes in those years . I'm writing you to adamantly oppose the proposed new clean injection site. This site is being dumped in ward 3 just like the halfway houses a number of years ago. There are also 2 grade schools very close to this location. I feel we have enough problems in this ward without importing new one . I work for Teamsters local 879 , believe in social programs but not in this location. Regards Ernie.

Statement on CTS facility on Barton Street Ward 3

Feb. 13, 2023

Chair and Members of the Board of Health,

I have been asked to offer some thoughts on the site application before the Board regarding the CTS facility on Barton St.

I must say that I do not live in Ward 3 currently. But I know it well. I grew up in the Ward at 562 Cannon St. East. I attended St. Ann's Elementary School, Central HS which was on Sanford and Wentworth Streets, was married at St. Anthony's Church (which I still support), learned how to skate at Woodland's Park, banked and shopped on Barton Street. And frequent some of the businesses there still.

My heart aches when I see the degradation of some neighbourhoods and cheer at the positive changes that I see and have been made over the last number of years.

I also believe in harm reduction and safe spaces for our most vulnerable people such as the clients who will use this facility.

I am asking you, as a Board to consider the over-saturation of these facilities of sometimes (sadly) last resort in the neighbourhood. I have spoken with and have listened to those who have real fear of this over-saturation. My heart goes out to them. These folks are filled with hope for a better neighbourhood and are trying to make it happen. I try to allay their concerns but cannot argue with their analysis of over-saturation especially along Barton Street.

Surely in our city our size another alternative can be found.

288 words

I

I ask you to listen to the citizens who live in the Ward and see if you can find a compromise.

Respectfully

Larry Di Ianni



Liz Duval <lizduval2000@gmail.com>

Opposition to Supervised Consumption Site - Hamilton

1 message

Liz Duval

Sat, Oct 30, 2021 at 3:22 PM

To: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org, ward3@hamilton.ca, ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca, elizabeth.richardson@hamilton.ca, daly@hwdsb.ca, horwatha-q@ndp.on.ca, ed@aidsnetwork.ca

Dear Minister Elliott,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed supervised consumption site being put forward by the AIDS Network at 746 Barton Street East in Hamilton.

We operate our businesses in three storefronts right across the street and live upstairs. The proposed site is also located only **three doors down** from an agency that provides a day program to about 80 young adults with developmental disabilities. **It is less than 200m from a school.** It is adjacent to residential buildings and located in a commercial district. This is not the right location for this site.

Last week, Hamilton Board of Health endorsed the AIDS Network's application. At the meeting, the exact address of the site was not identified and the AIDS Network did not disclose it as part of their presentation. We are certain that if the site had received proper scrutiny, it never would have received council endorsement.

We, as a community have not been adequately consulted. None of the businesses or residents we have spoken to on our block were aware of this initiative prior to seeing it in the media last week. There is a suspicion that information has been purposefully withheld to prevent resistance to the site.

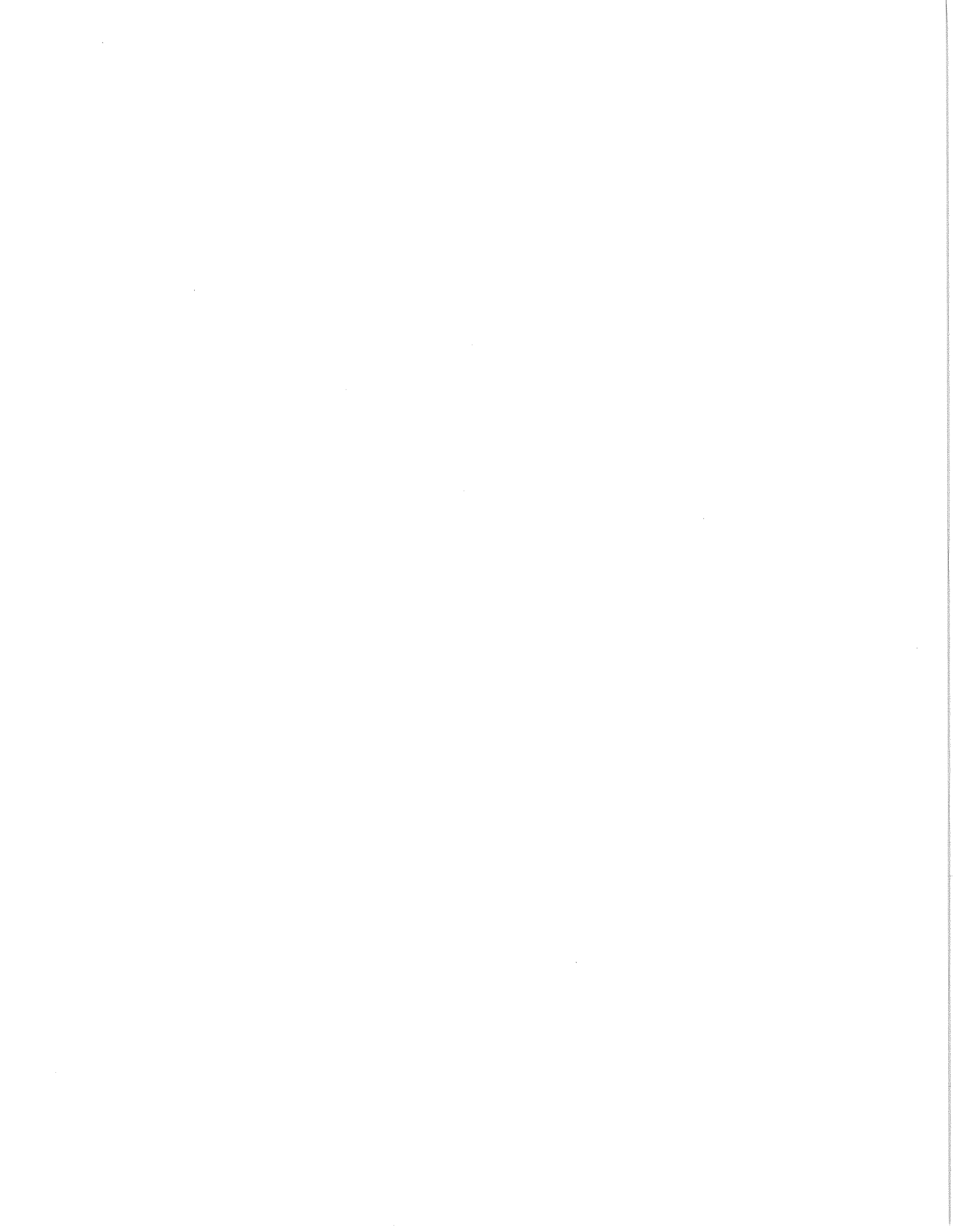
We do not believe this application is being put forward in good faith, in that very little consultation has taken place in the context of this specific site. We are asking you to reject the site at 746 Barton St. East and send the AIDS Network back to the drawing board for a more appropriate location to deliver their services.

Sincerely,

Liz Duval

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





MILLER THOMSON
AVOCATS | LAWYERS

FORWARD TOGETHER

Hamilton Board of Health Governance Education Session

February 13, 2023

Karima Kanani
Partner, Miller Thomson LLP

Agenda

1. Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance
2. Good Governance Principles for Public Health Boards
3. Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
4. Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990*
- Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability (June 2021)
- *Municipal Act, 2001*
- *City of Hamilton Act, 1999*
- By-laws, Policies and Procedures

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)*
 - The *HPPA* is provincial legislation that creates Boards of Health and establishes Board of Health powers and authority (HPPA s.49)
 - Board of Health has oversight of Public Health Programs and Services
 - Every Board of Health shall superintend and ensure the carrying out of Health Programs and Services, Community Health Protection and Communicable Diseases in accordance with the HPPA and the regulations (HPPA s. 61)
 - Board of Health is to appoint a Medical Officer of Health (HPPA s. 62)
 - Medical Officer of Health is responsible for management of Public Health Programs and Services (HPPA s. 67(1),(3))

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)*

- Board of Health to meet governance requirements related to variety of matters including related to Board composition:

49 (1) A board of health is composed of the members appointed to the board under this Act and the regulations.

(2) There shall be not fewer than three and not more than thirteen municipal members of each board of health.

(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may appoint one or more persons as members of a board of health, but the number of members so appointed shall be less than the number of municipal members of the board of health

- Regulations under HPPA address Board of Health composition
- BUT this does not apply to Hamilton Board of Health because it is single-tier under *City of Hamilton Act* (ss. 49, 55) and the Municipal Council is the Board of Health

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- *Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability (2021)*
 - Provincial public health accountability framework
 - Every Board of Health is to comply with Public Health Standards for mandatory program/services (HPPA s. 7)
 - Calls on Boards of Health to implement strategies to reduce health inequities and meaningfully engage priority populations
 - Boards accountable for good governance practices to ensure effective functioning
 - Requires that Boards of Health have local by-laws and governance policies on variety of matters including selection of Board of Health members based on skills, knowledge, competencies and representatives of the community, where able to recommend to the appointing body

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- Boards of Health are subject to the HPPA but also to other legislation where the governance and mandate is tied to the municipality
- *Municipal Act, 2001*
 - Includes Board of Health in definition of “Local Board” (s.1(1))
 - Various provisions related to Local Boards, some apply to Boards of Health and others do not
 - Includes provisions on procedure by-laws for calling, place and proceedings of meetings

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- Hamilton Board of Health is also subject to *City of Hamilton Act, 1999*
 - *The City has the powers, rights and duties of a Board of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act (s. 11)*
 - Hamilton City Council operates and functions as the Board of Health
 - As single-tier municipality Health Unit, Hamilton Board of Health does not have separate By-laws/Policies, it is governed by procedural rules under City of Hamilton By-Law No. 21-021 (By-law to Govern the Proceedings of Council and Committees of Council)
 - The City By-law also creates a Standing Committee Board of Health composed of all members of Council to provide recommendations to Council

Legal Landscape of Public Health Governance

- Under City of Hamilton By-Law No. 21-021 (By-law to Govern the Proceedings of Council and Committees of Council) Appendix B, the Standing Committee is responsible for:
 - Consider/recommend to Council policy matters/emerging issues re: public health
 - Provide advice/guidance to Public Health Services re: Strategic Planning initiatives and alignment with Council's Mission, Vision, Values and Goals
 - Receive delegations from the public/conduct public hearings as required by statute and Council
 - Consider/recommend to Council overall service levels re: Public Health Services
 - Consider/recommend to Council policies governing service delivery of Public Health Services
 - Consider/monitor program implementation and performance through staff reports
 - Consider public health needs of community/recommend advocacy by Council to address needs
 - Matters that have the potential of litigation and are under the mandate of Standing Committee

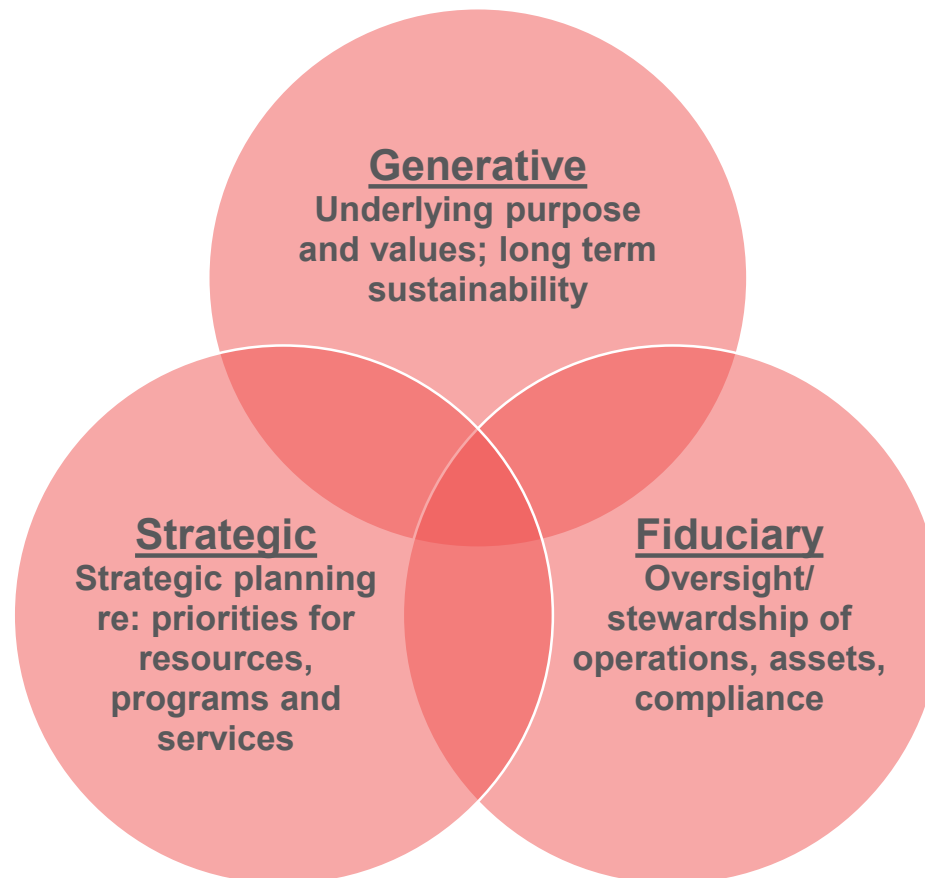
***Good Governance Principles
for Public Health Boards***

Good Governance Principles

- *What is “Governance”?*
 - Process to enable effective oversight and decision-making for an organization and stewardship of its strategic direction
- *Why Good Governance?*
 - Best practices in governance enable quality and effective decision-making leading to improvements in programs, services and resources to meet community need

Good Governance Principles

Governance Duties of Board Members



Good Governance Principles

- *Standard of Care:*
 - Discharge authority and duties with honesty, in good faith, and in the best interests of the Health Unit
- *Objective Standard:*
 - What diligence would a reasonably prudent person exercise in comparable circumstances?

Good Governance Principles



Good Governance Principles

Stewardship

- Board is the steward of the Mission, Vision and Values, and sets the tone, culture and accountabilities

Board Composition

- Board Members identified based on personal attributes and technical competencies, collectively reflecting proficiencies for a skills-based Board inclusive of diversity and representative of the community

Board Conduct and Processes

- Use of By-laws and policies to provide rigor and clarity to Board procedures and rules of order as well as effective management of Board conduct

Enterprise Risk Management

- ERM is a systematic, holistic, integrated approach to identifying, evaluating and responding to significant risks on an enterprise wide basis; use of ERM risk registers common for Board reporting

Good Governance Principles

Relationship of Governance and Management

- Board responsible for risk and compliance oversight, and to establish policies/procedures. Management/MOH responsible for implementation of policies/procedures established by the Board and risk reporting to the Board. Balance between Board authority and Management/MOH decision-making key to effective operations. Council/Staff Relationship Policy.

Community/ Stakeholder Engagement

- Collectively as a Board, systematically engage and consider the voice and perspectives of the community and other stakeholders in decision-making to advance the needs of the community and diversity, equity and inclusion

Board Evaluation

- Commitment to continuous improvement of Board governance and effectiveness through Board evaluation of its own performance and ability to meet stated objectives

Good Governance Principles

- *Ontario Public Health Standards (2021)*, includes Good Governance for Boards of Health (not exhaustive):
 - Strategic plan, service plan, performance reporting, accountability
 - Comply with governance requirements of HPPA
 - Develop/implement policies/by-laws for functioning of the Board, including rules of order for meetings and selection of members based on skills, knowledge, competencies and community representation, where able
 - Have a risk-management framework
 - Provide governance direction to administration
 - Engage in community and multi-sectoral collaboration, including relationships with Indigenous communities
 - Aware of emerging issues and trends
 - Engage in self-evaluation of governance practices

***Advancing Diversity, Equity
and Inclusion***

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Why Advance DEI?
 - Improves ability to connect with and serve the community
 - Provide a better Board understanding of challenges, risks and inequities in the community
 - Leads to better Board decision-making and more effective operations
 - Leads to improvements in service equity and broader community support
 - Social responsibility, impact and accountability

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Advancing Inclusive Leadership/Governance
 - Board leads the direction and tone on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the organization
 - DEI fluency of Board members
 - Integrating DEI into governance structure and Board policies and practices
 - Taking proactive action as a Board to create and sustain an inclusive organization that reflects the community that it serves

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Advancing Community Centred Governance
 - Decision-making that is responsive to community needs and priorities
 - Advances principles of community engagement and system co-design
 - Meaningful engagement of individuals, families, caregivers and communities
 - Incorporation of community voice/lived experience in decision-making

Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- 3 key takeaways:
 - *Principle #1*: DEI is an Imperative
 - *Principle #2*: DEI starts at the Board Table
 - *Principle #3*: DEI is a Journey not a Destination

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

- Health System Transformation
 - Public Health Modernization
 - April 2019 – Province announced that it would reduce the number of Public Health units from 35 to 10 by April 1, 2020
 - Early 2020 - Province paused plan for mergers and initiated consultations on Public Health modernization
 - Public Health modernization plan paused due to COVID-19
 - Today refer to “Strengthening Public Health” but no clear indications on future intention.....

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

- Current Hamilton Board of Health Framework:
 - The City has the powers, rights and duties of a Board of Health under the HPPA (*City of Hamilton Act*, s. 11)
 - Members of the Board of Health are all the Members of Municipal Council
 - Council also has Board of Health Standing Committee, also composed of all Members of Municipal Council
 - Community input and engagement through:
 - City of Hamilton Urban Indigenous Strategy
 - City of Hamilton Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee
 - Additional Volunteer Advisory Committees
 - Delegations

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

- There are other Boards of Health that have varied mix of municipal/ community members at the Board table
- 34 Health Units in Ontario with different Board of Health structures
- Other Municipal Boards of Health have
 - Merged to form Autonomous Boards
 - Restructured to Semi-Autonomous Boards

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

- Board of Health structures:
 - Single-Tier (Hamilton, Haldimand-Norfolk)
 - Municipal Council serves as Board of Health; no citizen appts or provincial appts
 - Regional (Durham, Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo, York)
 - Operates under regional government (upper tier); no citizen appts or provincial appts
 - Autonomous (example: Southwestern, Huron Perth)
 - Admin structure of health unit and municipality are separate
 - Multiple municipalities with representation; may include citizen appts and provincial appts
 - Semi-Autonomous (Toronto, Ottawa)
 - Municipal Council appoints members to separate board but retains authority for budget/staffing; includes citizen appts but no provincial appts

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

Mergers Involving Municipal Boards of Health

	Southwestern	Huron Perth
Prior to Merger of Health Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxford County Health Unit (operated by County of Oxford) Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huron County Health Unit (operated by County of Huron) Perth District Health Unit
Post-Merger Composition	<p>8 Municipal Members (HPPA Reg 559):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 appointed by Municipal Council of Oxford County 2 appointed by Municipal Council of Elgin County 2 appointed by Municipal Council of St. Thomas <p>2 Provincial Representatives appointed by Lieutenant Governor</p>	<p>9 Municipal Members (HPPA Reg 559):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 appointed by Municipal Council of Huron County 2 appointed by Municipal Council of Perth County 2 appointed by Municipal Council of Stratford 1 appointed by Municipal Council of St. Marys <p>1 Provincial Representative appointed by Lieutenant Governor</p>

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

Semi-Autonomous Board of Health Structures

	Ottawa	Toronto
<p>Governing Legislation</p> <p><i>(City of Ottawa Act, City of Toronto Act)</i></p>	<p>A board of health for the city is hereby established and it is deemed to have been established under the HPPA (s. 12(1))</p> <p>The city shall, by by-law, establish the board's size in accordance with subsection 49(2) of the HPPA (s. 12(2))</p> <p>Despite subsections 49(1) and (3) of the HPPA, all of the members of the board shall be appointed by the city (s. 12(3))</p>	<p>The Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit is continued as a board of health for the City and is deemed to be a board of health established under the HPPA (s. 405(1))</p> <p>The City shall, by by-law, establish the Board's size in accordance with subsection 49(2) of the HPPA (s. 405(2))</p> <p>Despite subsections 49(1) and (3) of the HPPA, all the members of the Board shall be appointed by the City (s. 405(3))</p>
<p>Board Composition</p>	<p>11 Members: 6 Council representatives / 5 public members</p>	<p>13 Members : 6 City Council members and 6 public members / 1 education representative</p>

Alternate Board of Health Frameworks

- To implement an alternate Board of Health structure:
 - Will require amendments to *City of Hamilton Act*
 - Will require amendments to City of Hamilton By-laws
 - May require amendments to *Health Protection and Promotion Act*
- To implement an alternate Board of Health Standing Committee structure:
 - Will require amendments to City of Hamilton By-laws
 - No legislative changes
 - Municipal Council remains as Board of Health under HPPA
- Board evaluation/reflection; consider desired approach to achieve good governance and DEI objectives

Questions?



MILLER THOMSON

AVOCATS | LAWYERS

Karima Kanani

kkanani@millerthomson.com

416.595.7908

Karima Kanani is a lawyer and Partner at Miller Thomson LLP. She is one of the Firm's top Health Industry specialists. Karima provides corporate counsel to health and social service Boards, organizations and associations of all sizes. Karima is a leading advisor and frequent industry speaker on governance and health system transformation. She has been named as one of the "Best of the New Generation of Lawyers" (Precedent Magazine), as a "Rising Star" and "Leading Canadian Corporate Lawyer to Watch" (Lexpert Magazine) and one of "Toronto's Top Lawyers, Healthcare" by Post City Magazine.

FORWARD TOGETHER



MILLER THOMSON
AVOCATS | LAWYERS

MILLERTHOMSON.COM



© 2023 Miller Thomson LLP. All Rights Reserved. All Intellectual Property Rights including copyright in this presentation are owned by Miller Thomson LLP. This presentation may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety provided no alterations are made to the form or content. Any other form of reproduction or distribution requires the prior written consent of Miller Thomson LLP which may be requested from the presenter(s).



Hamilton

Respiratory Diseases Update

Jordan Walker, Director

Communicable Disease Control Division

Board of Health

February 13, 2023

Overview

1. Respiratory Season - Situation Report
2. Vaccine Program Update
3. Key Messages

Local Respiratory Virus Transmission Status

As of February 7, 2023:

Local COVID-19 Activity: Moderate & **Stable**

Local Influenza Activity: Low & **Stable**

Key Messages:

- COVID-19 reported cases, hospitalizations, and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admissions are stable, while test positivity and the number of active outbreaks are decreasing and wastewater signal is increasing.
- Influenza reported cases and test positivity are stable.

Access to Respiratory Virus Monitoring Information

Updated Resource – Week of February 13, 2023

- [Influenza & Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Dashboard](#) (updated Tuesdays)
 - ✓ Will now include influenza A, influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) wastewater signal

Ongoing Resources

- [Respiratory Virus Transmission Status](#) (updated Wednesdays):
- [COVID-19 Status of Cases Dashboard](#) (updated Tuesdays and Fridays):
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#) (updated on Tuesdays and Fridays)
- [Active Outbreaks posted on Open Data](#) (updated Monday – Friday)

Health System Capacity: Admissions/Funded Beds

	Hospital	Jan 2, 2023	Jan 9, 2023	Jan 16, 2023	Jan 23, 2023	Jan 30, 2023	Feb 6, 2023
Acute Care Occupancy	SJHH	107% 370/346	99% 350/354	97% 343/354	97% 343/354	97% 343/354	89% 315/354
	HHS	104% 688/662	107% 708/662	108% 715/662	109% 721/662	110% 728/662	110% 728/662
	MCH	97% 72/74	100% 74/74	104% 77/74	109% 81/74	93% 69/74	103% 76/74
Intensive Care Unit Occupancy	SJHH	82% 23/28	79% 22/28	71% 20/28	79% 22/28	68% 19/28	61% 17/28
	HHS	80% 69/86	74% 64/86	76% 65/86	84% 72/86	77% 66/86	84% 72/86
	MCH	100% 12/12	117% 14/12	50% 6/12	67% 8/12	75% 9/12	67% 8/12

Key Messages:

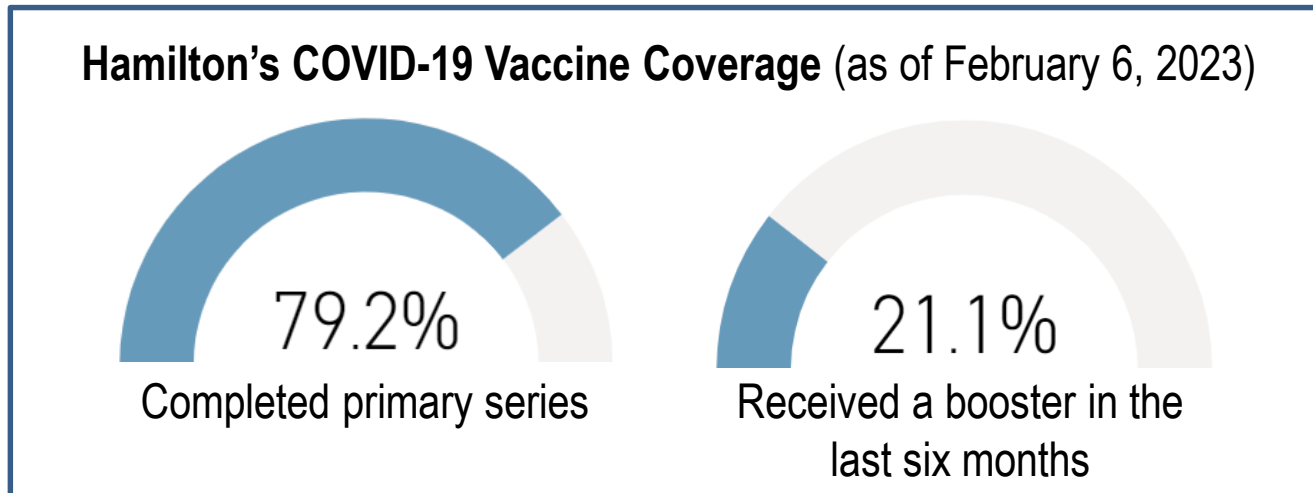
- Patient volumes/acuity and staffing challenges continue to create capacity pressures in areas of Hamilton's hospitals.
- Acute care occupancy has been near or above 100%, with SJHH seeing some decreases since January 2023. Intensive care unit capacity has improved overall.

Note: SJHH: St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, HHS: Hamilton Health Sciences, MCH: McMaster Children's Hospital

Vaccine Program Update – Data

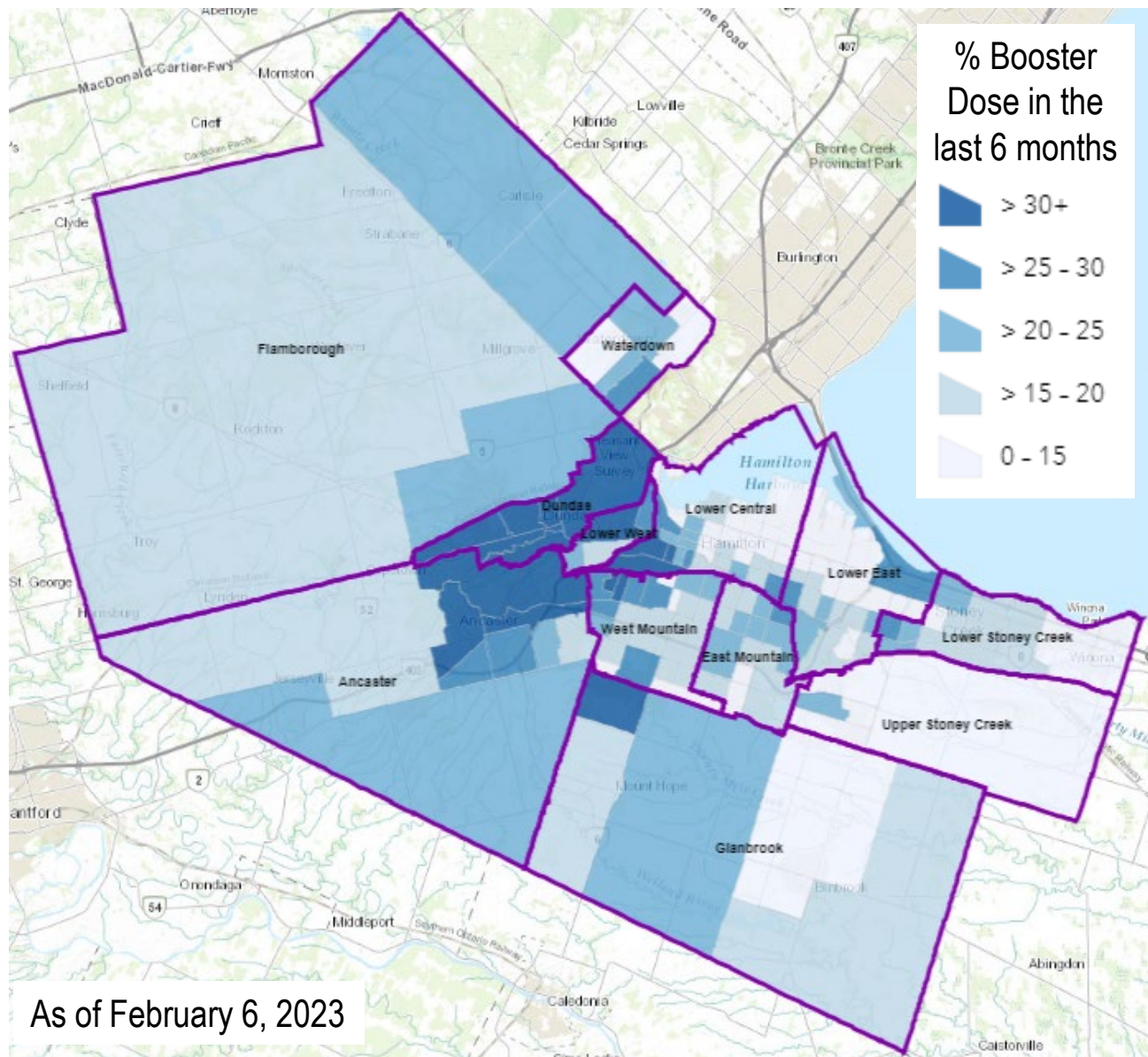
COVID-19 Vaccine Administered in Hamilton

- Administration has slowed in recent months, with approximately **1,200** doses administered in a recent week (January 31, 2023 to February 6, 2023):
 - Most doses continue to be bivalent booster doses (**90%**)
 - Majority administered in pharmacy (**56%**)



Note: Population aged 6+ months eligible for primary series, 5+ years for a booster

COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage by Geography



Vaccine Program Update - Operations

- Two mobile clinics continue to focus on Forward Sortation Areas (FSAs) at highest risk due to lower vaccine coverage, higher concentration of racialized population and high material deprivation
- Ceasing influenza vaccine administration at COVID-19 vaccine clinics February 17, 2022
- Continue:
 - Promotion of COVID-19 and Flu vaccine access via pharmacy and primary care sources
 - Vaccine Ambassador work to promote COVID-19 vaccine and promotion of COVID-19 catch-up of routine vaccinations in high school settings

Key Messages

- Hamiltonians are recommended to take a multilayered approach to prevent spread and reduce serious health consequences this respiratory virus season:
 - Stay up-to-date with your vaccinations including COVID-19 & flu
 - Strongly recommend wearing a mask when in crowded indoor settings and/or when unable to physically distance
 - Screen for respiratory symptoms daily, practice good hand and respiratory hygiene, and stay home when you are ill
 - Speak to your healthcare provider, know in advance if you're eligible for treatment for COVID-19, flu and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and where to access
 - Visit www.Hamilton.ca/ProtectYourself for more information



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 13, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Consumption and Treatment Services Site Application Process (BOH23007) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Melissa Biksa (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6709
SUBMITTED BY:	Julie Prieto Director, Epidemiology and Wellness Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

INFORMATION

This information report provides an overview of supervised consumption sites, the application process and the current status of supervised consumption sites within Hamilton.

Supervised Consumption Sites

Supervised Consumption Sites provide a place for people to use substances while in the presence of trained staff. Using substances in a supervised setting reduces the risk of overdose and death from substance use and reduces the spread of blood-borne infections as individuals are provided with new harm reduction supplies each time. In addition to providing a space to use substances, supervised consumption sites offer other wrap-around services, such as connections to health and social services. Evidence has demonstrated that supervised consumption sites are an effective and important intervention to address the harms associated with the current drug poisoning crisis to prevent overdose and death and link people to vital health and social services.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

Locally, supervised consumption sites were studied by Hamilton Public Health Services in 2017.¹ The recommendations from the report stated that Hamilton would benefit from one or more supervised consumption sites. Since the study was completed, the harms associated with the drug poisoning crisis have continued to significantly worsen. From January to October 2022, there were 139 confirmed or probable opioid-related deaths in Hamilton². Hamilton's opioid-related yearly death rate has consistently been higher than the provincial rate since opioid crisis began to exponentially increase in 2016. Most recently, rates in Hamilton were 45% higher than in Ontario in 2021,³ but have ranged from 110% higher in 2018 to 30% higher in 2020. Males, aged 25-44 years old, continue to be predominately impacted, and the gap is widening. For example, in 2021 men aged 25-44 years old accounted for 46% of the overdoses compared to 24% in 2012.⁴

Supervised consumption sites permit use of substances via injection, snorting, or orally. Amongst people who use drugs, there has recently been a shift in substance use, with more individuals choosing to inhale substances. Inhalation of substances in a supervised consumption space has not been permitted historically, however, this practice is being explored further due to the change in substance use. The first supervised consumption site for inhalation opened in Toronto at Casey House on November 16, 2022. For any site to allow consumption of substance within their facility they require an exemption to Section 56.1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* from Health Canada.

Supervised Consumption Services in Ontario

For organizations wishing to open a supervised consumption site, there are three different streams available currently:

1. Consumption and Treatment Service Sites (CTS)

A CTS site is a provincially-approved supervised consumption site.

Organizations who pursue this option require approval from both the Ontario Ministry of Health and Health Canada. This model was introduced in 2018 and is meant to provide integrated, wrap-around services to primary care, treatment and other health and social services. To operate a site under this

¹ Hamilton Public Health Services (2017). Hamilton Supervised Injection Site: Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study. Retrieved from: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=138141>

² Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, received January 20, 2023.

³ Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, extracted from the Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, January 24, 2023. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool#/maps>

⁴ Ambulatory Visits, Ministry of Health, IntelliHealth Ontario, extracted January 2023

model a consumption space must have a defined pathway to addictions treatment services, offer harm reduction services and remove inappropriately discarded harm reduction supplies surrounding the CTS area.⁵ A CTS application is assessed based upon five criteria:

- a) **Local conditions:**
Applicant to demonstrate need for consumption services based upon local health data;
- b) **Capacity to provide treatment and consumption services:**
Applicant to demonstrate the ability to provide the full range of required wrap-around services;
- c) **Proximity:**
Applicant to address the proximity of the proposed site to other supervised consumption services, and to services such as child care centres, parks and schools. If proposed site is within close proximity (100-200m), the applicant must specify how the community concerns will be addressed through consultation and ongoing community engagement;
- d) **Community support and ongoing community engagement:**
Applicant to engage community to inform on CTS, potential impacts to people who use drugs and community and how any concerns will be mitigated; and,
- e) **Accessibility:**
All sites must be compliant with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and must be easily accessible by public transit, and services must be offered in a way that is culturally, demographically and gender appropriate.

As part of the application through the community support section, applicants must obtain support and endorsement from local municipal council.⁶

⁵ Ministry of Health (2023). Consumption and Treatment Services application.

Retrieved from:

https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/opioids/docs/CTS_application_guide_en.pdf

⁶ Ministry of Health (2023): Consumption and Treatment Services Application.

Retrieved from:

https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/opioids/docs/CTS_application_guide_en.pdf

If approved, CTS sites receive both capital and operational funding from the province. The province currently has a cap of a maximum of 21 CTS sites in operation within Ontario. There are 17 approved sites currently operating in Ontario. Locations include Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Peterborough, St. Catherine's, Thunder Bay, Guelph, London, Kingston, and Kitchener.

Hamilton has one approved CTS site, which is operated by Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Services. It is temporarily located at 70 James St. South, and will be re-located to 430 Cannon St. East upon completion of their new building.

2. Supervised Consumption Sites

An organization can also open a supervised consumption site with only Health Canada approval, if they do not require operating or capital funding.

Organizations can apply to Health Canada to receive an exemption to section 56.1 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, which is required to operate a supervised consumption site in Canada. The federal application requires evidence of community consultation, how the applicant plans to address any concerns raised by the community and a letter of opinion from the provincial or territorial health minister.

3. Urgent Public Health Needs Sites

The newest stream available to organizations are Urgent Public Health Needs Sites. These sites are similar to Supervised Consumption Sites, but are set up in an expedited manner on a temporary basis in order to respond to urgent needs in a community. Each province and territory in Canada have been issued a 56.1 class exemption from the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* in relation to urgent public health needs and it is the provincial Minister of Health's discretion if they wish to implement the class exemption or not. Currently, Ontario does not have a class exemption in place, and is not overseeing the operation of any Urgent Public Health Needs Sites in Ontario. Therefore, any local organization interested in opening an Urgent Public Health Needs Site must apply directly to Health Canada.⁷

Hamilton has one Urgent Public Health Needs Site, currently operated by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) at Carol Anne's Place.

⁷ Health Canada (2022): Supervised consumption explained: types of sites and services. Retrieved January 25 2023 from: Supervised consumption explained: types of sites and services - Canada.ca

Supervised Consumption Services in Ontario

As noted above, there is currently two approved supervised consumption spaces in Hamilton. As the drug poisoning crisis continues to worsen, there is continued need for additional supervised consumption spaces within the community. The AIDS Network (TAN) is currently applying for a second CTS site in Hamilton at 746 Barton St. East. In 2021 the Board of Health, via a motion, supported The AIDS Network to open a CTS site in Ward 3.⁸ The Ministry of Health has advised that the strongest form of support a CTS applicant can provide is a local municipal council resolution that is address specific. Additional letters of support from individual councillors are also welcomed. Given the existing motion is not address specific, the Ministry has encouraged The AIDS Network as the applicant to obtain municipal council support with the full address of the proposed CTS. As part of this CTS application, The AIDS Network will be required to submit an application to Health Canada to receive CTS approval from the province, and the Ministry has outlined other outstanding requirements to the applicant for their application. When considering providing municipal support for a CTS site, council should consider the five requirements for a CTS application as part of their decision-making.

In closing, supervised consumption is a key intervention to provide safe options for those who use substances. As overdoses and deaths continue to increase in Hamilton, additional supervised consumption spaces, Consumption and Treatment Service Sites and Urgent Public Health Needs Sites are needed to provide a safe place to consume substances. However, supervised consumption is just one intervention to reduce harms for people who use drugs. A comprehensive approach supported by funding and action at all levels of government is required to address the significant harms associated with the drug poisoning crisis.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

⁸ City of Hamilton (2021). Board of Health Minutes 21-010. Retrieved January 27 2023 from: <https://pub-hamilton.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=299170>



Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 13, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Opioid Emergency Response (BOH23008) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Robin Dozet (905) 546-2424 Ext. 3726 Kris Nagel (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7102
SUBMITTED BY:	Julie Prieto Director, Epidemiology and Wellness Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

This report is in response to the following direction from Council on January 25, 2023:

- i) That the Medical Officer of Health or designate be directed to investigate the thresholds of opioid deaths and overdoses that would enable the declaration of a state of emergency and report back to the Board of Health; and,
- ii) That staff be directed to include in their report the response required to address such an emergency; and available sources of funding to enable an effective response by the City of Hamilton.

INFORMATION

Hamilton, like the rest of the province, continues to experience a public health crisis associated with the harms from opioids. Between 2016 and 2021 Hamilton experienced a 245% increase in opioid-related overdoses and a 229% increase in opioid-related deaths. From January to October 2022, there were 139 confirmed or probable opioid-related deaths in Hamilton.¹ Hamilton's opioid death rate has been consistently higher than the provincial rate.²

¹ Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario received January 20, 2023.

² Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, extracted from the Public Health Ontario Interactive Opioid Tool, January 24, 2023. Retrieved from:

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

As this crisis continues to prevail, additional strategies to address the harms from opioids have been considered, including formal declaration of an opioid emergency. This report provides information on the process for declaring an emergency in Ontario, as well as an overview of mental health and addictions interventions to address the public health crisis associated with the harms from opioids in Hamilton.

Declaring an Emergency in Ontario

In November of 2019, Council declared an opioid crisis in the City of Hamilton. This local declaration raised awareness of the increase in overdoses in Hamilton and requested action from the Provincial and Federal governments. The declaration did not constitute an official emergency declaration, as legislated in Ontario through the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O 1990, c. E.9* (EMCPA). EMCPA defines an emergency as “a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise.” The intent of a declaration under the EMCPA is to respond to an acute emergency requiring a coordinated response that exceeds current capacities, and not necessarily for responding to systemic health issues.

While Hamilton would benefit from additional funds to further respond to the opioid crisis, an official declaration would not lead to the provision of funds. In Ontario, financial assistance for emergencies to cover extraordinary costs after a disaster is administered through the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA) program. The funding is conditional on municipal costs totalling at least three per cent of the municipality’s tax levy. The eligibility language in the program is very specific to natural disasters that are “caused by forces of nature. Examples of natural events that have the potential to cause disasters include but are not limited to floods, tornados, earthquakes, landslides and wildfires affecting populated areas.” As such, the current opioid crisis would not be eligible under the MDRA.

Currently there are some funding sources available for organizations to access to implement interventions to address the opioid crisis. This includes Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP), where funding is available to government agencies and community-led and not-for-profit organizations in Canada for a wide range of initiatives aimed at addressing problematic substance use prevention, harm reduction and treatment initiatives for various psychoactive substances, including opioids. Since program inception in 2016, SUAP has issued three national calls for proposals in 2017, 2019, and 2021.

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/substance-use/interactive-opioid-tool#/maps>

The Province of Ontario provides funding for consumption and treatment services sites (CTS) in Ontario. They have also provided investments in mental health and opioid treatment, with recent announcements in treatment funding in 2022.³

Additionally, some agencies rely heavily on private donations to charitable organizations to fund their mental health and addiction initiatives. Examples of such programs include a new safer inhalation room at Prairie Harm Reduction's safe consumption site in Saskatoon which operates entirely on donations and revenue generated from selling of merchandise.

Thresholds for Action

In emergency management, thresholds for an elevated response can be quantitative, but are often situational and based on contextual factors and the capacities of responding agencies. Opioid-related escalation thresholds were exceeded before 2019, prompting the local crisis declaration. Since that time, extensive work across Hamilton has been done to minimize impacts of opioids and is detailed in subsequent sections of this report. Currently, thresholds are in place as part of the opioid early warning system maintained by Public Health Services to monitor local activity and issue alerts to the community. The system provides a weekly report to community partners about paramedic response activity, flags suspected elevated overdose periods, and includes qualitative information collected from partners based on their experiences in the community. In addition to the early warning system, Public Health Services collaborates with Hamilton Paramedic Services, Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and community partners to provide timely opioid-related surveillance information to the public online via the Hamilton Opioid Information System (HOIS). The system provides data related to paramedic calls for opioid overdoses, naloxone distribution, hospital visits for opioid overdoses, emergency department visits for drug use and suspected overdoses, and mortality data.

Opioid Crisis Response in Hamilton

As communicated at the December 2022 (BOH22018) and January 2023 Board of Health (BOH23002) meetings, Public Health Services is focused on upstream population health, working within an integrated system of health and social services to collectively address complex health issues alongside community partners. Given the substantial public health burden, Public Health Services and the broader community of health and social service providers have a shared responsibility to respond to the opioid crisis and to reduce harms to people who use drugs.

As such, the Hamilton community has been actively responding to the opioid crisis with innovative and evidence-informed interventions since the crisis rapidly began to grow in

³ Ministry of Health. (2023). Ontario launches new addiction recovery fund. Retrieved: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1001596/ontario-launches-new-addictions-recovery-fund>

2016. A 2017, an Opioid Response Summit that was convened by the Mayor to address concerns regarding increases in overdose deaths led to the creation of an opioid response plan and the establishment of the Hamilton Drug Strategy (HDS). Physicians and hospital partners continue to provide access to treatment services and have established a Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic. Safe consumption sites have been established at Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre and Carole Anne's Place, with plans for another community site under way. Keeping Six - a grassroots organization - provides advocacy, support and an organized voice for people with living/lived experience. Through its Harm Reduction Committee, the Greater Hamilton Health Network is focused on expansion of supervised consumption and safe supply programs. There are also four active SUAP projects in Hamilton, including by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), Hamilton Branch's Reducing Harms of Substance Use and Advancing Recovery through Peer Support program; Grenfell Ministries' Community Outreach Action Collaborative Hamilton and National Overdose Response Service programs; and, the AIDS Network's Support and Safer Supply program. Finally, as outlined at the January 2023 Board of Health (BOH23002) report, mental health and addictions continues to be a departmental priority for Public Health Services, with focused attention in 2023 on: trauma and violence-informed care, municipal policies to address substance use, community health promotion, and harm reduction.

These interventions, combined with the efforts of many other health and social service agencies not listed above, continue to be essential in enhancing the quality of life and reducing harms for people who use drugs in Hamilton. However, the opioid crisis is a complex issue that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, an increasingly toxic and unregulated drug supply and inadequate policies that fail to recognize drug use as a health issue. Addressing the opioid crisis requires a comprehensive and coordinated public health approach across multiple agencies and all levels of government and must include solutions that focus on the determinants of health, public health and the human rights of people who use drugs.⁴ While this coordinated approach continues to be advocated to provincial and federal governments, there is a need for a more coordinated response to enhance local efforts and strengthen the local opioid response.

Therefore, Public Health Services has proposed a renewed local opioid response plan with leadership from health and social service agencies to coordinate, develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated plan. The Hamilton Drug Strategy has

⁴ Health Canada Expert Task Force on Substance use. (2021). Report #2, Recommendations on the Federal Government's Drug Policy as Articulated in a Draft Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS). Retrieved February 2 from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/about-health-canada/public-engagement/external-advisory-bodies/expert-task-force-substance-use/reports/report-2-2021.html>

SUBJECT: Opioid Emergency Response (BOH23008) (City Wide) - Page 5 of 5

approved this as a priority area for action in 2023, and will initiate the renewal of the plan in March 2023. This action-oriented plan will be developed over a series of facilitated sessions and will be presented at the June 2023 Board of Health meeting. As the Hamilton Drug Strategy secretariat, Public Health Services will assist with planning and monitoring of the plan.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.



Hamilton

**PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STEERING COMMITTEE
REPORT 23-001**

Friday, February 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Councillor M. Tadeson (Chair)
Councillor T. Hwang (Vice-Chair), Dr. S. Kinzie, M. Nash,
Dr. S. Wooder

**Absent
with Regrets:** Dr. B. Singh – Business

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH FOR
CONSIDERATION:**

1. Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair (Item 1)

(a) Appointment of Chair

That Councillor Tadeson be appointed as Chair of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee for the balance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

(b) Appointment of Vice-Chair

That Councillor Hwang be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee for the balance of the 2018-2022 term of Council.

2. Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 23-001, February 10, 2023 (Item 10.1)

(a) Summary Report Regarding Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton Health Network (Item 10.1)

That the Summary Report Regarding Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton Health Network, attached hereto as Appendix A, be received.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)

The Committee Clerk advised that there were no changes to the agenda:

The agenda for the February 10, 2023 meeting of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee be approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

(i) August 5, 2022 (Item 4.1)

That the Minutes of the August 5, 2022 meeting of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee were approved, as presented.

(d) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 9)

The following Minutes of the Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee, were received, as presented:

(i) July 12, 2022 (Item 9.1(a))

(ii) October 11, 2022 (Item 9.1(b))

(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)

There being no further business, the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councillor M. Tadeson, Chair
Physician Recruitment and
Retention Steering Committee

Tamara Bates
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

**Ad Hoc Working Group for the Transfer of the Physician Recruitment and
Retention Program to the Greater Hamilton Health Network**

Summary Report Regarding Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton
Health Network

Council Direction

At its meeting of January 25, 2023, Council amended Item 3 of Board of Health Report 22-008, August 10, 2022 (originally approved by Council on August 12, 2022), as follows:

3. Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 22-002 - August 5, 2022 (Item 10.1)

- (a) Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 22-001 (Item 1)
 - (i) Proposal to Transfer Program into the Greater Hamilton Health Network & Formalize Existing Funding Relationships (Item 4.1)
 - (1) That Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians), with the support of the Greater Hamilton Health Network, attached as Appendix A to Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 22-002, be transferred to the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN), as an independent department therein, reporting to the Executive Director of the GHHN, on a date mutually agreed upon and no later than February 28, 2023, attached to Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 22-001 as Appendix B to Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee Report 22-002;
 - (2) That from the date of the transfer, Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) staff will become employees of the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN):
 - (aa) with the same terms and conditions of employment;
 - (bb) from which time they will adhere to GHHN policies; and
 - (cc) may have the opportunity to become permanent employees of the GHHN;
 - (3) That the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) will remain unchanged upon the initial transfer of the Program to the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) and any future changes will require approval of the

Executive Council of the GHHN and that the GHHN provide an annual report to the Board of Health on the KPIs;

- (4) That the following be transferred to the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN):
 - (aa) All existing property purchased by Hamilton Physicians, including all office furniture, equipment and supplies;
 - (bb) Administration for payroll and expenses;
 - (cc) The balance of the City of Hamilton's current contribution to the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) operating budget of \$75,000;
 - (dd) Payments from existing funding partnership arrangements;
 - (ee) All Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) surplus funds (as of May 31, 2022, this amount is \$515,116.05), net any outstanding liabilities; and
 - (ff) The Hamilton Physicians brand, which will be maintained by the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN);
- (5) That the Greater Hamilton Health Network will commit all budgeted future Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) funding payments to physician recruitment and retention efforts;
- (6) That the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) will pursue formal funding arrangements with the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) current partners and with other stakeholders, including the other municipalities within its mandate;
- (7) That an ad-hoc working group, be established, as follows:
 - (aa) The ad-hoc working group shall consist of one representative from each of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program stakeholders

- (bb) The ad-hoc working group shall report to the Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee;
 - (cc) The ad hoc working group shall investigate the details of the program transfer from the Hamilton Physicians partnership to the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) including, but not limited to, those considerations set out in subsections (a) through (f);
 - (dd) The ad hoc working group shall be disbanded on the successful and final transfer of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program to the GHHN;
 - (ee) The Working Group of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee shall develop and approve the terms of reference for the ad hoc working group;
- (8) That the Physician Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee:
- (aa) be established for the 2022-2026 Term of Council; and
 - (bb) be disbanded upon the transfer of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Program to the Greater Hamilton Health Network; and
- (9) That the Executive Director of the Greater Hamilton Health Network, or their designate, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Recruitment and Retention Steering Committee.
- (10) ***That the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to execute any and all agreements, amendments and ancillary documents necessary to transfer the Hamilton Physicians program to the Greater Hamilton Health Network, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.***

The Ad-Hoc Working Group has finalized the transfer arrangements which will allow for the successful transition of the Physician Recruitment & Retention Program (Hamilton Physicians) to the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) by February 28, 2023. The GHHN will formally assume responsibility of the Physician Recruitment and Retention (PR&R) Program on March 1, 2023. The details of the transfer are set out below.

Section 1: Transfer of Funds Currently Held by the City of Hamilton to the GHHN

Each of the five current funding partners of the PR&R Program (Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, McMaster University, McMaster University Department of Family Medicine, and the Hamilton Family Health Team) were asked to confirm that the portion of their contributions to the funds currently held in surplus for the PR&R Program by the City of Hamilton may be transferred to the GHHN. Consent was obtained via signed consent and waiver agreements from four of these five partners. McMaster University opted to have their contributed portion of the surplus returned, and discussions are currently underway regarding retaining the surplus as well as securing future funding.

Of the remaining surplus funds (less the portion returned to the McMaster University), a portion will be held back to cover anticipated legal costs for the PR&R Program. Any remaining funds following the culmination of the matter will be transferred to the GHHN.

As of February 28, 2023, all funds held by the City of Hamilton for the PR&R Program (less any outstanding expenses, payroll deductions, and liabilities) will be transferred into the GHHN.

The City of Hamilton currently contributes \$75,000 per year to the PR&R program and has committed to continue to include this funding in its annual budget. Any approved funding from the City of Hamilton for PR&R initiatives moving forward will be allocated to the Greater Hamilton Health Network. Approval will be conditional on the agreement that all budgeted future funding payments from the City of Hamilton (as well as all funds currently held in surplus) are allocated to physician recruitment and retention efforts within the City of Hamilton.

As of March 1, 2023, future annual funding contributions from the remainder of the PR&R Program's current funding partners to be negotiated between the GHHN and each funding partner directly.

Section 2 - Transfer of PR&R Staff to GHHN

Contract negotiations to transfer the employment of current PR&R staff to the GHHN are nearing completion. The current staff contract ends on February 28, 2023, and the new contract with the GHHN is expected to take effect March 1, 2023.

The GHHN has agreed administer staff payroll and expenses for the PR&R staff that transfer into the GHHN as of March 1, 2023. Current payroll administration and expense reimbursement for PR&R staff which is currently administered by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce will conclude February 28, 2023.

Section 3 – Co-Location Agreement with McMaster’s Department of Family Medicine

PR&R Program (Hamilton Physicians) staff currently have office space at the David Braley Health Sciences Centre, which is provided as an in-kind contribution from the McMaster University Department of Family Medicine, under a co-location agreement that extends to December 31, 2023. A new co-location agreement has finalized between the GHHN and the McMaster University Department of Family Medicine effective March 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Section 4 – Transfer of Hamilton Physicians Property

It has been agreed that all property purchased by the PR&R Program (Hamilton Physicians), including office equipment, supplies and furniture will be transferred to the GHHN, effective March 1, 2023. PR&R staff have compiled a list of all program property to be transferred to the GHHN valued at approximately \$12,600.

Section 5 – Key-Performance-Indicators (KPIs)

Upon the transfer of the PR&R Program into the GHHN current Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the PR&R program will be maintained. Any revisions to the current KPIs must be in the best interests of physician recruitment and retention within the City of Hamilton and will require the approval of the Executive Council of the GHHN.

KPIs will be reported to the Executive Council of the GHHN on an annual basis. The GHHN has committed to invite representatives from any current PR&R stakeholders who are not members of the GHHN Executive Council (currently only the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce) to the annual meeting at which KPIs will be provided.

The GHHN will report annually to the Board of Health on its recruitment activities for Hamilton at a time mutually agreeable to both.



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Epidemiology and Wellness Division

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 13, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Substance Use and Addiction Program Funding – Harm Reduction Outreach Project 2022-2025 (BOH23006) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Susan Boyd (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2888
SUBMITTED BY:	Julie Prieto Director, Epidemiology and Wellness Division Public Health Services
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Health authorize and direct the Medical Officer of Health to:

- (i) Receive, utilize and report on funding from Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program to fund a collaborative Harm Reduction Outreach Project between Public Health Services’ Mental Health and Street Outreach Program and The AIDS Network;
- (ii) Enter into an agreement between the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services, and Health Canada to receive the funding for the Harm Reduction Outreach Project, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor; and,
- (iii) Enter into a collaborative agreement with The AIDS Network to provide Harm Reduction Outreach staff to implement services in the Harm Reduction Outreach Project, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Health Services’ Mental Health and Street Outreach Program provides outreach services to individuals experiencing homelessness, and individuals often also experience addiction and/or mental health issues. The team receives requests to provide assertive outreach to areas in the community where individuals using substances are staying or spending time. Assertive outreach involves outreach staff approaching individuals on the street with the aim of engaging with individuals to offer

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

SUBJECT: Substance Use and Addiction Program Funding – Harm Reduction Outreach Project 2022-2025 (BOH23006) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 5

instrumental supports such as hygiene supplies, heat and cold supplies, harm reduction supplies, and connections to other services as needed.

To effectively meet the above needs it was identified that additional staffing positions were required. A proposal was submitted in 2021 to Health Canada for a Harm Reduction Outreach Project. The initial proposal in 2021 was not approved, however an opportunity to reapply became available in September 2022. In December 2022 notification from Health Canada was received that the project was successful for full funding until March 31, 2025.

The project will involve two new full-time Harm Reduction Outreach Worker roles and one new part-time Peer Outreach Worker role to work with the Mental Health and Street Outreach Program providing specific harm reduction outreach services to individuals who use drugs and are experiencing economic insecurity, issues related to housing/homelessness, and lack of connection to health and social services.

This report is to seek approval to receive the funds and enter into the appropriate agreements to be able to move forward with implementing the Harm Reduction Outreach Project.

Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Health Canada Substance Use and Addiction Program funding will flow to the City of Hamilton Public Health Services and fully cover the project costs. The funding is for three years, with a pro-rated first year 2022-2023, and will end March 31, 2025. Public Health Services will utilize the funding to reimburse salary and benefits of The AIDS Network staff to provide the services within the project.

Staffing: 2.0 FTE Harm Reduction Outreach Staff and one part-time Peer Outreach Staff will join the Mental Health and Street Outreach Program to provide specific harm reduction outreach services. The staffing will be provided by The AIDS Network.

Legal: A contribution agreement will need to be signed between the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services, and Health Canada to receive the funds, announce the project, and report on outcomes for the project. A collaborative agreement will be negotiated between Public Health Services and The AIDS Network for staffing services.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Public Health Services' Mental Health and Street Outreach Program has seen an increase in individuals being referred who have substance use concerns and are not engaging with site based services which is leading to an increased need to bring services to where individuals are in the community.

Individuals within the City of Hamilton continue to be significantly impacted by the ongoing opioid crisis compounded by a high concentration of urban poverty and local health inequities. Currently many individuals using drugs are experiencing economic insecurity, issues related to housing/homelessness, and lack of connection to health and social services.

The Mental Health and Street Outreach Program has been working to increase the capacity of harm reduction services. An Alcohol, Drug & Gambling Services social work staff provides addiction consultation and the Mental Health and Street Outreach Program Outreach staff have been joining the VAN program, with the Public Health Mental Health and Harm Reduction program, for one shift a week. These have been helpful however cannot meet the needs of individuals being referred and the need for consistent outreach services.

A call for proposals from Health Canada's Substance Use and Addiction Program came in 2021 and appeared to align with the priorities of the funding and the needs of the population serviced by the Mental Health and Street Outreach Program. The AIDS Network was approached due to their experience in providing harm reduction services and peer work to be a partner in the proposal. The initial proposal was not approved, however, with an opportunity in September 2022 to resubmit the proposal the Harm Reduction Outreach Project was approved by Health Canada.

In collaboration with The AIDS Network the Substance Use and Addiction Project will add two Harm Reduction Outreach Workers and one Peer Support Worker to meet the increasing need for services. Harm reduction outreach services, focusing on needs related to substance related harms, will include: connecting with clients; provision of safe supplies; providing information on how to access safe supplies and Consumption Treatment Services in the community; providing information on safer use; and, providing practical support, supportive counselling, education, crisis management, and referrals to other services. The project will also conduct assertive outreach at various locations in the City of Hamilton in a partner model to improve capacity building.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not Applicable.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

In developing the proposal, The AIDS Network was consulted as a project partner. Finance and Administration reviewed the budget submitted in the proposal.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Mental Health Outreach Program has a longstanding history of providing specialized services to individuals experiencing homelessness, income insecurity and who also experience issues with substance use and mental health. The City of Hamilton continues to be challenged by the ongoing opioid crisis compounded by a high concentration of urban poverty and local health inequities.

This Health Canada Substance Use and Addiction Program project would offer a new opportunity to reach individuals through a mobile service that would specifically offer harm reduction outreach services. Outreach has been identified as a promising evidence-based strategy to engage, collaboratively build motivation, retain people in treatment ^{1,2} and increase engagement with social services.³

The AIDS Network has experience in providing harm reduction services and has been a longstanding partner with Public Health Services and the Mental Health and Harm Reduction Program. This new partnership with Mental Health and Street Outreach Program will lead to increased capacity in the area of harm reduction, build on existing services and will take a person directed, harm reduction approach with individuals at the centre of their care.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Not Applicable.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

¹ Langabeer J et al, Outreach to people who survive opioid overdose: Linkage and retention in treatment, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment Volume 111 2020.

² Christy K. et al, A community outreach intervention to link individuals with opioid use disorders to medication-assisted treatment, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment Volume 108 2020.

³ Scott W. et al, Post opioid overdose outreach by public health and public safety agencies: Exploration of emerging programs in Massachusetts International Journal of Drug Policy Volume 54 2018.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Board of Health: February 13, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR A. Wilson

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N. Nann

Advancing a Whole-Community Harm Reduction Framework

WHEREAS, [The geographic analysis of opioid-related deaths across Ontario](#) shows that larger urban centres, including Hamilton, exhibited the largest increase in both rates and in the absolute number of cases of opioid-related deaths during the pandemic;

WHEREAS, [Between 2005 and 2021, Hamilton had a higher rate of opioid-related deaths than the provincial average;](#)

WHEREAS, [Opioid-related deaths continue to rise year-after-year in Hamilton.](#) In 2019, 106 Hamilton deaths are probable or confirmed to be opioid-related. In 2020, those numbers increased to 128 and in 2021, those numbers increased to 170;

WHEREAS, [From June 2021 to May 2022, 29 deaths in the Hamilton homeless population were reported.](#) 16 of those deaths were reported to be overdose-related and 30% died while accessing shelter;

WHEREAS, There is a need for sustained funding to maintain harm reduction services including safer use spaces;

WHEREAS, Adequately funded harm reduction services would create cost-savings to other municipal and frontline services;

WHEREAS, The YWCA Hamilton has been operating a safer use space since late April 2022 to present. As of January 19, 2023, the program has served 176 unique guests and successfully reversed 34 drug poisonings. There have been zero calls made to police and one call made to EMS that did not require transfer to hospital;

WHEREAS, The meaningful engagement and involvement of people with lived and living experience of drug use and homelessness is vital;

WHEREAS, The City of Hamilton has a responsibility to implement policies and programs designed to urgently address the increase in opioid-related mortality, including providing access to evidence-based harm reduction services across the City, including in the houseless serving sector; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City staff be directed to track and document all deaths related to toxic drugs and report back annually to the Board of Health in the fourth quarter of every calendar year, beginning in 2023; and
- (b) That City staff be directed to:
 - i) Convene with local stakeholders, including people with lived and living experience, health, and drug policy experts, to develop an evidence-based harm reduction action plan for the purpose of addressing high rates of opioid-related deaths with a completion and report back to the Board of Health on June 12, 2023; and
 - ii) That these consultations and action plan specifically consider how to implement safer use spaces and other evidence-based harm reduction strategies both in the City and in the Houseless serving sector.