Supervised Injection Sites: Effectiveness and Proposed Next Steps

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BOH Motion: Feb. 18, 2016

- "that staff be asked to report back to the Board of Health on the use and effectiveness of safe injection site programs across the country"
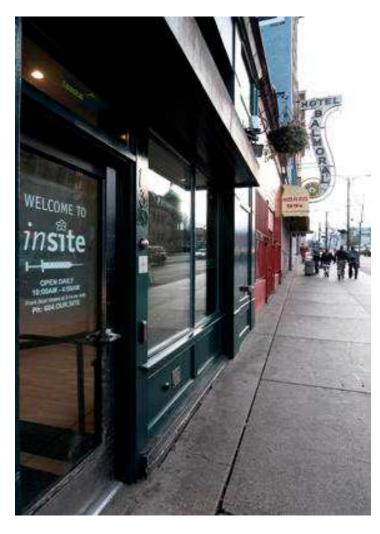
Harms of Injection Drug Use

	Individual	Community/ population
Health	-Infectious diseases -Overdose -Skin infections -Poor mental health and addictions -Increased death	-Spread of infectious diseases
Social	-Unstable housing -Inability to work -Involvement in the sex trade -Incarceration -Drug-related crime	-Drug-related crime -Injection litter -Degradation of public spaces

What is a SIS?

Goals of SIS

- ↓ getting and spreading infectious diseases
- ↓ overdose
- ↓ unsafe injection practices
- ↓ social nuisance of public drug use and consequences, including injection litter
- ↑ medical care and addiction treatment

SISs have been shown to:

Attract the marginalized and high risk people who inject drugs

Decrease fatal and non-fatal overdoses

Decrease unsafe injection practices like syringe sharing

Promote public order by decreasing public injection and injection litter

Promote addiction treatment

Be cost-effective

Be successfully accepted by people who inject drugs, local residents, and the police

SISs have <u>not</u> been shown to:

x Shift drug use to different neighbourhoods

x Increase drug injecting

x Increase drug trafficking or crime in the surrounding area

x Decrease the overall number of people who inject drugs

SIS in Canada

- Current
  - Insite (Vancouver)
  - Dr. Peter Centre (Vancouver)

  *Approx. 90 SISs globally

Communities pursuing SIS:

- Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Victoria

Feasibility studies being conducted:

- Thunder Bay, London

Recommended Next Steps

- Request through 2017 capital budget for a needs assessment and feasibility study for one or more SISs in Hamilton

- High level community and stakeholder survey seeking opinions on SISs in Hamilton