



**HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**  
Strong Core, Healthier Lives

December 17, 2018

To The City of Hamilton:

**Re: Support for Hamilton Urban Core Application  
for Consumption and Treatment Services**

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre is seeking your support in applying for a Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) within the Centre. Our application must be submitted to the provincial government by no later than December 31, 2018.

Hamilton Urban Core in partnership with the Shelter Health Network has been operating an Overdose Prevention Site since June 2018. Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS) are temporary supervised injection sites. They operate as lifeguard stations for IV drug use. They provide a safe environment, harm reduction supplies and immediate support in the case of an overdose. The OPS has seen 2,321 visits, reversed a total of 23 overdoses and has had a total of 2,159 visits for harm reduction services between June 2018 and November 2018.

In October 2018, the CTS program was announced by the provincial government and is intended to replace overdose prevention services. Consumption and Treatment Services will provide integrated, wrap-around services that connect people who use drugs to primary health care, treatment, and other health and social services while continuing to provide support in the event of an overdose.

Hamilton Urban Core is planning to expand its services to include a consumption and treatment service site alongside our existing harm reduction, and clinical and community health services for people who need this service and are working towards submitting an application to the provincial government.

In 2017, 87 people in Hamilton died because of opioid overdose. This represented a death rate 72 per cent higher than the average in Ontario. According to the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, the number of opioid-related deaths in Hamilton has almost doubled over the past 10 years.

In 2016, there were 230 newly diagnosed cases of Hepatitis C in Hamilton, 32 per cent higher than the provincial rate. Hence, the continued need for harm reduction services in Hamilton to reduce and eliminate blood borne infections.

Preliminary stats from the City of Hamilton show that in the first three months of 2018, the number of opioid-related deaths was almost two times higher than in the same timeframe last year.

As part of the community consultation process, Hamilton Urban Core engaged almost 200 individuals who represented community members, service users, business owners, service providers and agencies in a survey. The survey findings indicated that:

- a) The majority of the respondents live in the neighbourhood, use services in the community or work or own a business
- b) An overwhelming number of respondents indicated that they have strong ties with downtown Hamilton and as such felt safe, that they know where everything is located and/or that they have family or friends in the area
- c) The majority of people felt that services to address the "drug" problem were needed
- d) A high number of people indicated that they want to be kept informed through community meetings or in a newsletter
- e) Some suggested that a good relationship with the police was important and in particular it is important to have clear roles
- f) Clients who access the OPS services at the Centre acknowledged the importance of the services, indicating that they felt strongly that it saves lives, acknowledged drug use and opioid overdose as a big problem in Hamilton, suggested more hours and increased services.

We found the feedback to be encouraging and are committed to continuing with routine dialogue with the range of those in the neighbourhoods and communities surrounding Hamilton Urban Core to hear their perspective and address any concerns that may surface.

All of the information above clearly indicates the need for a Consumption and Treatment Services in Hamilton. We respectfully request that the City of Hamilton support Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre in its application for Consumption and Treatment Services by way of a motion. A sample motion is attached for your reference. Please note that the application must be submitted to the provincial government by no later than December 31, 2018.

If you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



**Denise Brooks**

Executive Director

Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre

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## **HAMILTON URBAN CORE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**

Strong Core, Healthier Lives

### **Re: Support for Hamilton Urban Core Application for Consumption and Treatment Services**

Motion:

Whereas, a temporary Overdose Prevention Site opened in Hamilton on June 5, 2018; and

Whereas, in 2017, 87 people in Hamilton died because of opioid overdose. This represented a death rate 72 per cent higher than the average in Ontario; and

Whereas according to the Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario, the number of opioid-related deaths in Hamilton has almost doubled over the past 10 years

Whereas, efforts have been made to address the opioid crisis through Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS) that are temporary supervised injection sites, which operate as lifeguard stations for IV drug use.

Whereas, in October, the Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) program was announced by the provincial government and is intended to replace overdose prevention services.

Whereas, the CTS model will provide integrated, wrap-around services that connect clients who use drugs to primary care, treatment, and other health and social services while continuing to provide support in the event of an overdose.

Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Hamilton support by approval of this motion Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre's 2018 application to the Province of Ontario for funding under the Consumption and Treatment Services program.