

## Fernandes, Krislyn

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**From:** Elspeth Troy <etroy@wechu.org>  
**Sent:** March-21-19 10:51 AM  
**To:** Premier Doug Ford  
**Cc:** The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau ; The Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health; Christine Elliott (christine.elliottco@pc.ola.org); Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada; Dr. David Williams; Loretta Ryan (loretta@alphaweb.org); ALPHA ; MPP Lisa Gretzky; MPP Percy Hatfield ; MPP Taras Natyshak ; Sleiman, Ed; Joe Bachetti; Tracy Bailey (tbailey@lakeshore.ca); Gary McNamara, Mayor of Tecumseh, Warden Windsor-Essex County; Snively, Larry; Ken Blanchette - St. Clair Colege (drkenblanchette@gmail.com); Debbie Kane; Judy Lund (jlund@fswe.ca); Carlin Miller ; John Scott; 'Michelle Watters'; Councillor Rino Bortolin; Councillor Fabio Constante; Councillor Chris Holt; Theresa Marentette; Nicole Dupuis; Wajid Ahmed; Kristy McBeth; Dan Sibley; Lorie Gregg  
**Subject:** Support for Increased Actions in Response to the Opioid Crisis  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support-Opioid Crisis-Feb 2019.pdf

Dear Premier Ford,

Please see the attached correspondence from Windsor Essex County Health Unit in support of Peterborough Health Unit's letter Re: Support for Increased Actions in Response to the Opioid Crisis.

Thank you,

### **ELSPETH TROY | Executive Assistant | Administration**

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit  
1005 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, N9A 4J8  
Ph. 519-258-2146 ext. 1220  
Fx. 519-258-6003

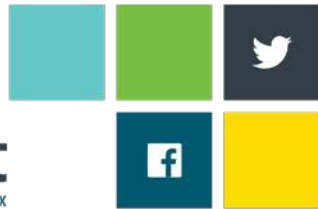


*Our vision is a healthy community.*

**Employees of WECHU represented by the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) are on strike effective Friday, March 8. To find out which public health services will be impacted, please visit <https://www.wechu.org/ona-strike>.**

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

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March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Honorable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
[Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier Ford,

**Re: Increase actions in response to the current opioid crisis**

On behalf of our board of health, I am writing you in support of Peterborough Public Health's request of the federal and provincial government to increase their actions in response to the current opioid crisis.

Throughout Canada the misuse of opioids, particularly fentanyl, is a growing public health crisis resulting in epidemic-like numbers of overdose deaths. In Windsor-Essex we have focused on multi-sector collaboration aimed at addressing the four pillars of harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement. A comprehensive approach such as this requires significant investment and ongoing support and sustainability.

We support our colleagues in urging all levels of government to continue their efforts and support to address the crisis in our province and county with a coordinated pan-Canadian action plan spanning all four pillars of the national drug strategy.

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit thanks you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary McNamara  
Chair, Board of Health



Theresa Marentette  
Chief Executive Officer

<https://www.wechu.org/boh-docs>

<https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/BOH-Agenda-Jan-12-2019-original.pdf>

cc: The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health  
The Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada  
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)  
Ontario Boards of Health  
Windsor-Essex MPP's

Windsor-Essex Board of Health



Jackson Square, 185 King Street, Peterborough, ON K9J 2R8  
P: 705-743-1000 or 1-877-743-0101  
F: 705-743-2897  
[peterboroughpublichealth.ca](http://peterboroughpublichealth.ca)

January 7, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
[doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier Ford,

On behalf of the Board of Health for Peterborough Public Health, I am writing a letter of support for Southwestern Public Health's request of both the provincial and federal governments to increase their actions in response to the current opioid crisis.

Throughout Canada the misuse of opioids, particularly fentanyl, is a growing public health crisis resulting in epidemic-like numbers of overdose deaths. The overall economic cost (healthcare costs, lost productivity costs, criminal justice costs and other direct costs) of substance use in Canada in 2014 was estimated to be \$38.4 billion. This estimate represents a cost of approximately \$1,100 for every Canadian regardless of age. Opioids contributed \$3.5 billion or 9.1% of these total costs.

Our current approaches to managing this situation- focused on changing prescribing practices and interrupting the flow of drugs- have failed to reduce the death toll. An enhanced comprehensive public health approach based on the evidence-informed four pillars of harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement is necessary. This approach should include the meaningful involvement of people with lived expertise as well as stakeholders including Indigenous peoples' governance organizations to establish prevention, harm reduction and health promotion programs that meet the needs of their communities.

The time to act is now. In the Chief Public Health's Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2018: Prevention Problematic Substance Use in Youth, Dr. Theresa Tam states that "The national life expectancy of Canadians may actually be decreasing for the first time in decades, because of the opioid overdose crisis".

We are urging all levels of government to continue their efforts to address this crisis in our country with a coordinated pan-Canadian action plan spanning all four pillars of the national drug strategy.

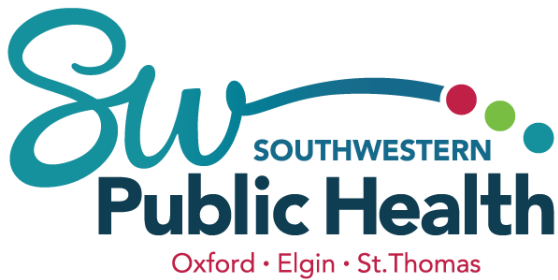
Sincerely,

**Original signed by**

Councillor Henry Clarke  
Chair, Board of Health

/ag  
Encl.

cc: The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
The Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health  
The Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Dr. Theresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer of Canada  
Dr. David Williams, Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Local MPs  
Local MPPs  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Boards of Health



**St. Thomas Site**  
Administrative Office  
1230 Talbot Street  
St. Thomas, ON  
N5P 1G9

**Woodstock Site**  
410 Buller Street  
Woodstock, ON  
N4S 4N2

October 24, 2018

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

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

On behalf of the Southwestern Public Health Board, I am writing to both our provincial and federal government leaders to reinforce the urgency of the opioid poisoning emergency in our country and urge both the provincial and federal governments to increase actions in response to this emergency based on the evidenced-informed four pillar approach of harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement.

There is an expanding opioid crisis in Canada that is resulting in epidemic-like numbers of overdose deaths. These deaths are the result of an interaction between prescribed, diverted and illegal opioids (such as fentanyl) and the recent entry into the illegal drug market of newer, more powerful synthetic opioids. The current approaches to managing this situation – focused on changing prescribing practices and interrupting the flow of drugs – have failed to reduce the death toll and should be supplemented with an enhanced and comprehensive public health approach. Such an approach would include the meaningful involvement of people with lived experience.<sup>1</sup>

We call on both levels of government to support initiatives that address the causes and determinants of problematic substance use, to make all tools and resources available to support efforts to address the opioid crisis at a community level, to expand and strengthen the integration of surveillance information between provincial and federal partners, to expedite approvals for newer therapeutic modalities for medication assisted and opioid substitution treatment, to provide funding to municipalities and regional health services to establish safe consumption facilities, and to support harm reduction and health promotion services needed to mitigate the opioid crisis at a regional level.

Injection drug use is associated with many serious drug-related harms, such as the transmission of blood borne infections (HIV, Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B), and with fatal and non-fatal overdoses and injection site bacterial infections. In some parts of the world, these harms are widespread among people who inject drugs. Access to interventions such as needle and syringe exchange, opioid substitution therapies, naloxone distribution, sharps management strategies, overdose prevention sites, and supervised consumption sites are essential to reducing these harms and improving the health of the people who use drugs.<sup>2</sup>

We are urging both our federal and provincial Ministers of Health to continue their efforts to address this crisis in our country with a coordinated pan-Canadian action plan spanning all four pillars of the national drug strategy.

Sincerely,



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Bernie Wiehle  
Chair, Board of Health  
Southwestern Public Health

copy:

Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Federal Minister of Health  
Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Deputy Premier  
Honourable Jeff Yurek, Member of Provincial Parliament, Elgin – Middlesex – London  
Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament, Oxford  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
Ontario Boards of Health

- 1 <https://www.cpha.ca/opioid-crisis-canada>
- 2 Harm reduction international [www.hri.global/public-health-approaches-to-drug-related-harms](http://www.hri.global/public-health-approaches-to-drug-related-harms)