



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Believing, Achieving, Serving

*Chairperson of the Board
Mr. P.J. Daly*

November 2, 2021

Mr. Blaine Bouchard, Manager
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Health Protection & Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch
Addiction & Substances Policy and Programs Unit
Box 12
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Mr. Bouchard:

I am writing on behalf of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board with regard to the proposed supervised consumption site at 746 Barton Street East, Hamilton. We have grave concern with the proposed location site as well as the process used to determine it.

With regard to the process, we only became aware of the potential location of the site as a result of contact from concerned residents/neighbours. Our staff did not receive any invitation to provide feedback with regard to the site nor were we aware of any opportunity to be consulted.

Our particular and serious concern however relates to the identified location of the site. As you know, as part of the application process participants are required to identify proximity of a proposed consumption site to parks, schools and child care centres. It as well indicates that applicants are required to provide “evidence of support by local stakeholders, including residents”. It is in this regard that I bring to your attention that St. Ann Catholic Elementary School is located less than 200 meters from the proposed site. St. Ann’s school has an enrolment of 315 students of which 194 walk to and from school each day. Many of those 194 students would walk by (in front of) the proposed location a number of times each day.

The school as well houses a child care centre that a number of parents in the area have chosen to care for their children each day. Similarly, some of these parents/caregivers and their young children would walk by the consumption site on a frequent basis.

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As you know, the safety, well-being and security of our students and staff is of high priority for our Board. The proposed location of the site in very close proximity to St. Ann Catholic Elementary School could put at risk the well-being of the staff and students.

We want to go on record as expressing our deep concern and opposition and strongly urge consideration of an alternate location.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please call me at (905)525-2930.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. Daly', with a long, sweeping underline.

Patrick J. Daly
Chairperson of the Board

PJD/m

Cc., Mr. F. Eisenberger, Mayor of Hamilton
Dr. E. Richardson, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Hamilton Public Health
Mr. T. McClelland, Executive Director, The AIDS Network