

**From:** Andrea Harris [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 25, 2025 11:15 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Written Submission for CWCL 105-2025 (Petition to Designate Public Libraries as Safe Drug Consumption Sites)

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Hello!

I have never written in response to a topic slated for a committee meeting, so I hope this is the correct format. Please correct me if I am wrong.

To the esteemed members of Hamilton City Council,

I'm writing in response to item CWCL 105-2025 (Petition to Designate Public Libraries as Safe Drug Consumption Sites). As a resident of Stoney Creek, I strongly disagree with this petition and respectfully request that the committee not approve or proceed with it.

I'm deeply concerned about Councillor Kroetsch's proposal to establish Safe Injection Sites at three initial library branches, with the potential for further expansion across our library system. While I understand the desire to address the challenges of addiction in our community and connect individuals with vital supports, I have significant reservations about the proposed location of these sites and addiction services adjacent to or within our public libraries.

Our libraries serve as vital community hubs, offering a safe and welcoming environment for individuals of all ages, particularly families and children. These spaces are dedicated to learning, literacy, and community engagement, and have wonderful programs that patrons enjoy. Introducing Safe Injection Sites in such close proximity raises serious concerns about the potential impact on the environments within and around our libraries.

My primary worry revolves around the safety and well-being of library patrons, especially children. The risk of accidental exposure to drugs, discarded needles, or other drug paraphernalia is a very real threat that cannot be dismissed. The potential for witnessing and experiencing individuals under the influence of drugs, and the associated erratic or potentially violent behaviour that comes with being in that altered state, could create an intimidating and unsafe atmosphere, deterring families and other community members from utilizing these essential spaces and resources.

I am also concerned that the introduction of Safe Injection Sites at libraries could fundamentally alter the nature of these spaces. Libraries are intended to be inclusive and accessible to everyone. Placing facilities associated with drug use within or immediately

outside their doors risks stigmatizing these locations and potentially leads to a significant decrease in library usage by current patrons who may feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Instead of introducing Safe Injection Sites in community spaces frequented by vulnerable populations, I believe we should focus on and potentially expand current initiatives like the HART Hubs program introduced by Premier Ford. This program offers a different approach to addressing addiction and providing support, and it warrants serious consideration as a potentially more suitable and less disruptive solution for our community.

I urge the City Council to carefully consider the potential negative impacts of locating Safe Injection Sites at our public libraries. The safety and well-being of all residents, particularly children, should be the priority. I respectfully request that you explore alternative locations and strategies that do not compromise the integrity and accessibility of our library system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Andrea Harris

