

Petition to Designate Public Libraries as Safe Drug Consumption Sites

To the City Council of Hamilton, ON,

Whereas:

- Addicts don't use where you want them to, rather where they'd like to enjoy their high
- In the past 6 years, ONE THOUSAND and TWENTY-NINE people in Hamilton have succumbed to opioid - just opioid - induced overdoses
- Ten Safe Drug Consumption Sites (SDCS) are slated to close by March 31st, 2025 - two of which are in Hamilton
- The SDCS model, as implemented by the Ford government, was set-up to fail since these facilities were planned, before controversy arose, to operate unabashedly within 200 meters of schools and childcare facilities
- Opioid-related - just opioid - overdoses in Hamilton, particularly in Ward Two, where many wants and needs of addicts are serviced, have been at epidemic-esque proportions since 2018; approximately SEVEN HUNDRED and SEVENTY-FIVE people overdosed in 2024.
- Libraries, particularly Central given its proximity to the Salvation Army's men's Homeless Shelter, Jackson Square, the downtown core as a whole really, are subject to rampant substance abuse affecting not only those who use but also those nearby who don't
- Central library, inclusive of its adjacent - above-mentioned - surroundings comprises the second largest hotspot for opioid - just opioid - related overdose activity from January 2017 to February 18th, 2025; 45.9% of overdoses in said time period occurred in Ward Two

We, the undersigned citizens of Hamilton, ON, call upon City Council to designate public libraries, particularly those in proximity to services frequented by the homeless, as SDCSs by:

- Reallocating resources, including trained personnel, from SDCSs slated to close to select libraries
- Erecting a rudimentary structure approximately 20ft by 15ft by 10ft near such libraries of specifications tiered towards curtailing indoor substance use such as:
 - A couple of tamper-proof heating elements, similar to those used at GO Bus stops where they only activate when the temperature dips below zero degrees Celsius
 - Being fully enclosed aside from the lack of a door, so as to prevent people from locking themselves in or others out; the facility shall be closed, when the adjacent facilities do, by using a 'portable' blockade of the sorts
 - No cameras! Such sites are to be monitored by SDCS workers or other relatively trained professionals
- Increasing the availability of social services AT the libraries and giving them spaces to host meetings in private

NAME	ADDRESS (POSTAL CODE)	E-MAIL/PHONE NUMBER
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**This petition contains 115 signatures
A copy of the petition is available for
viewing in the Office of the City Clerk**