

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Preserve Public Libraries as safe spaces for children, students and families.

From: Shawna Bates

Sent: April 26, 2025 9:31 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Ward 11 <ward11@hamilton.ca>; dan.muys@parl.gc.ca; donna.skelly@pc.ola.ca

Subject: Preserve Public Libraries as safe spaces for children, students and families.

To: Donna Skelly, Dan Muys, Mark Tadeson,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed plan to convert public libraries into safe injection sites. While I understand and support the importance of addressing the opioid crisis with compassion and urgency, I believe that utilizing public libraries for this purpose is not the appropriate solution.

As a mother who relies on the library weekly to teach my children, and as someone who wants to protect her children, proposing a safe injection site at one of our home libraries, or any library is seriously disheartening. These are safe spaces for families everywhere to attend and enjoy.

Surely, there are more suitable locations that can support harm reduction efforts without displacing or endangering those who rely on libraries as safe and enriching spaces. I urge the council to consider alternative venues and solutions that address the crisis effectively while preserving the integrity and purpose of our public libraries.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope you will prioritize the well-being of all community members by protecting the primary role of our libraries.

Sincerely,
Shawna-Marie Epp