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**PARKDALE
QUEEN WEST**
Community
Health Centre

Parkdale Queen West Community News

The provincial government's funding for Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) is scheduled to end on June 13, 2026, meaning the remaining provincially funded sites across Ontario will likely be forced to close. This hasty policy decision to defund life saving services has already begun to have a direct impact on our community and shape what we see in our neighbourhoods.

Across many of our operating sites we have noticed an uptick in community members needing support. In response, we are working closely with community partners to meet that need as best we can with the resources still available to us. While our capacity is not unlimited, our commitment to our community remains unwavering.

We know that many of our neighbours and community members are concerned about safety, about those who are suffering and about what comes next. You are not alone in holding that worry.

Staying Safe & Supporting Neighbours in Crisis (What to Do & Who to Call)

Knowing the right number to call can make all the difference. We also want to remind you that in Parkdale we are continuing to actively participate in the **Parkdale Safety Network**, chaired by the City of Toronto.

- The **next Parkdale Safety Network Meeting** will be **Thursday May, 28 2026** at **Toronto Public Library Parkdale Branch**, Basement, 1303 Queen Street West from **6pm-8pm**.

When you see a neighbour in need, here is how to help:

1. **If someone needs urgent medical care (unresponsive, bleeding, seizure, difficulty breathing):** Call 911 right away. Tell the dispatcher clearly that this is a medical emergency.

2. **For a mental health crisis:** Call 211 and ask for *Toronto Community Crisis Services*. Trained mental health responders can be dispatched to help.
3. **To connect someone sleeping outdoors with outreach and housing support:** call 311 and ask for *Streets to Homes (S2H)*. They operate 24/7 and can send outreach workers to offer shelter, housing and basic needs.
4. **With help in collecting sharps (needles or discarded substances use tools) on public property:** Call 311 for their safe removal and disposal.

You can also contact PQWCHC directly with help in our local area for:

- Outreach for people sleeping outdoors or struggling with substance use
- Safe sharps removal and disposal

We will always help where we can, but we are only available during business hours in our immediate area. For urgent needs outside of our hours, please rely on the 24/7 City services (911,211,311).

Need PQWCHC Help? Email us at communityengagement@pqwchc.ca

Responding to the Recent Increase in Overdose Occurrences

There has been a steep increase in [EMS calls for opioid-related overdoses](#). [Toronto Drug Checking Services](#) have also reported findings of [increased contamination and unpredictability](#) in the unregulated opioid supply.

We have seen a rise in instances of overdose in the month of May, both reported by community members as well as witnessed and responded to by our own teams. In recent months, there has been an increase in new individuals accessing the Stabilization and Connection Centre, operated through our partnership with The Neighbourhood Group and University Health Network. Stabilization care services provide an alternative to emergency department transfers for people experiencing critical substance use intoxication and provides 24-hour care, as well as connection to supportive social services.

Please know we are actively working with community partners to increase access to overdose prevention education and outreach. But we cannot do this alone.

We urge community members to carry naloxone. You never know when you might be the one to save a life.

- **Where to Get Naloxone:** Any local pharmacy (no prescription needed) or at any PQWCHC site
- **Need to Know How to Use it?:** When you pick up a naloxone kit from PQWCHC, our staff will be happy to provide instructions on how to effectively administer it

Toronto Drop-in Network has developed a [Drug Alert Community Care Toolkit](#) with useful resources, we encourage you to review it and share with anyone who it may

help stay safe.

If you encounter someone who may have overdosed:

Please follow [Toronto Public Health's guidelines](#).

5 STEP OVERDOSE RESPONSE

STEP **1**  **SHOUT & SHAKE**
their name

STEP **2**  **CALL 911**
if unresponsive

STEP **3**  **ADMINISTER NALOXONE**
1 spray into a nostril and/or
1 ampule into arm or leg

STEP **4**  **START CPR**
Perform rescue breathing and/or chest compressions

STEP **5**  **IS IT WORKING?**
If NO improvement in 2–3 minutes repeat steps 3 & 4

STAY WITH THE PERSON

Clean your hands after providing care



During overdose response. Stay up to date with your COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

 **TORONTO** Public Health

Looking Ahead

Though medical interventions for people who use drugs are shrinking, our commitment to this community is not. We are doing everything we can to support community members and advocate for more social supports, access to medical care and safe, supportive housing.

We want to let you know about the upcoming rally and concert in support of Ontario's remaining SCS. Hosted by [Stay Open, Stay Alive](#) on **Saturday May 30, 2026** at **Metropolitan United Church**, 56 Queen St. E at **2pm**, featuring PQWCHC's CEO Angela Robertson, along with Jason Miles as speakers.

And say tuned, this summer we will be sharing more community events, programs and partnership announcements focused on supporting unsheltered community members and people struggling with substance use. Despite the loss of health care services we are still finding new ways to show up for each other.



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