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Dear Partners and Community

I'm writing to share the devastating news that the Ontario Government has decided to terminate funding for Parkdale's 1229 Queen Street West Supervised Consumption Service (SCS) and we have 30 days to wind down the service.

This follows the Ontario government's decision last year to close ten (10) SCS within 200 meters of schools and daycares, including our 168 Bathurst St. SCS.

We know that since the pandemic homelessness in the city has doubled to the point of a crisis, and since late May 2025 after the closure of four SCS in Toronto we have seen a 50% increase in the number of individuals accessing our Parkdale SCS. This has created new and exacerbated already existing challenges for the remaining support services. Heightening neighbourhood tensions and leading to an increase in complaints from some residents about safety, public drug use, discarded drug use equipment, vandalism, and health and safety concerns related to lack of after-hours washroom facilities.

The closure of Parkdale's SCS will have a horrific impact on our clients, and for our community. We will be engaging our partners to begin communicating this decision to clients, and to start the near impossible task of creating mitigation and safety planning for users of the SCS. Having only 30 days to wind down this life saving service is beyond alarming, in a context where access to a residential treatment service can take upwards of six months.

This decision was framed as being consistent with the provincial government's direction on Mental Health and Addiction services, and I quote from the Ministry notification letter:

“As you are aware, Ontario is taking the next step to create a system of care that prioritizes community safety, treatment and recovery. As part of this approach, the ministry has announced an investment of almost \$550 million to support the creation of Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs. HART Hubs will connect people to a holistic approach to treatment that includes mental health services, primary care, substance use care, wraparound services and mental health and addiction supportive housing.

It is after careful consideration that I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Health (the “ministry”) will be terminating funding for the Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) located at 1229 Queen Street West in Toronto as of November 22, 2025.”

Terminating funding for the SCS will certainly mean a closure of the service as the Centre is not able to self-fund the service. In 2018 when some sites were defunded, including two in Toronto, they continued to operate through donations. It is early days since the news, and we have not yet looked at this as an option. Nor are we sure if the government would permit us to pursue this option.

As shared when we closed the Bathurst St. SCS, we cannot bring ourselves to say this is the end of harm reduction offered by PQWCHC, as we are in the middle of unregulated toxic drug and overdose crises, and that closure will cause serious health risks and deaths. So, amid the anger, frustration and grief, we remain relentless working to not make harm reduction, including SCS extinct in Ontario.

We support the development of HART Hubs, but these new services cannot replace — or justify abandoning — community-based harm reduction and Supervised Consumption Services where people actually live. We need both, along with the supportive housing and wrap-around care that the government itself says is required. Closing a life-saving service without offering an alternative may initially satisfy those who see it as a problem, but the impact of this decision will cost lives, heighten community tensions, and deepen the inequalities our province is already struggling to address.

We need a balance of both treatment and harm reduction programs, and believe people who use drugs need SCS's, and all the supports enabled by the governments HART Hubs.

We ask you to please share your response to this news with the provincial

government, and do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to harm reduction services



Angela Robertson - Executive Director



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