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**PARKDALE
QUEEN WEST**
Community
Health Centre

Dear Parkdale,

We are pleased to announce the reopening of **Gwynne Avenue Parkette** on **Wednesday October 1, 2025**. We want to thank the community for their support and understanding during this very challenging time. We recognize that this parkette is a vital resource for many and we are committed to ensuring it reopens as a safer, more welcoming and more supportive space.

To mark the occasion, we will be hosting a **day of activities commencing at noon** in the Parkette, with food donated by local community group Supportive Parkdale 4 All.



During the closure, we worked in coordination with the City of Toronto to develop a supportive and sustainable plan focused on the well-being of all community members in Parkdale, with emphasis on supports for unsheltered community members.

As a community health centre, our mission and responsibility is to provide low-barrier healthcare, social services, and meaningful connection to everyone in our community. The reopening of the parkette, now supported by multiple embedded City teams, strengthens our ability to fulfill this mission.

Our updated approach includes:

- As announced in August, PQWCHC expanded our breakfast program, not only to address food insecurity but to function as a key touchpoint, creating safe and consistent opportunities to connect unsheltered community members and people who use drugs with direct access to medical care, social services and referrals to appropriate services at the Centre and the City.
- We have added a dedicated outreach staff member to build stronger relationships with people in need. This team member will be a vital liaison between the community, our health centre and City outreach teams, ensuring better connection and access to care.
- We have developed a comprehensive service schedule with the City, including enhanced response from the City's Harm Reduction Unit and Streets to Homes team, to provide daily consistent, on the ground social supports, shelter and housing resources.
- The City is enabling access to public washrooms at the nearby Masaryk-Cowan Community Centre.
- We are working with the City's Parks & Recreation division to enhance maintenance and implement a schedule that is more responsive to community needs in the parkette space and Parkdale, inclusive of regular maintenance and pick up of publicly discarded drug use equipment.

This collaborative approach was designed to create a sustainable plan for the parkette space and nearby community, and we will monitor and adapt the approach to ensure it's responsiveness. We are confident that this collaboration and commitment from the City will ensure we can better address the range of needs in the community. However, urgent need remains for all levels of government to invest in essential pillars for the well-being of our community: harm reduction, healthcare, safe shelter and housing.

We are thankful for the collective efforts that have made this reopening possible and look forward to continuing to serve our community and build a healthier, more supportive Parkdale together.



Angela Robertson - Executive Director



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