

Closing of the SCS at Queen West – 168 Bathurst St

April 1, 2025



PARKDALE
QUEEN WEST
Community
Health Centre

www.pqwchc.org

Dear PQW Community Partners:

As directed by the province, Parkdale Queen West CHC (PQWCHC) Supervised Consumption Services (SCS)/Consumption Treatment Service (CTS) – **168 Bathurst Street site closed on March 31, 2025.**

This closure comes in the face of the Court's decision, released past Friday, which suspends the application of location restrictions within Ontario's *Community Care and Recovery Act* until 30 days after the case has been decided. The Court, in agreement with the arguments we made in the case, granted the injunction on the grounds that site closures and the resulting increased risk of unsupervised drug use risks irreparable harm, threatening the health and lives of people who use drugs.

Nearly all sites that are slated to close, including PQWCHC, have accepted funding to transition to the new Homelessness Addictions Recovery & Treatment (HART) Hub model, and the government explicitly forbids the provision of SCS through HART Hubs and declared that they will withdraw funding from organizations if they apply the injunction and extend SCS services.

The PQWCHC federal Exemption from Health Canada to operate the Bathurst site SCS also expired on March 31, 2025, hence even without the threat of cuts to HART Hub funding, our Queen West site could not open, as it would be deemed unsanctioned, and thus subject to legal actions. This would jeopardize the Exemptions we hold for Parkdale SCS, and two Urgent Public Health Needs (UPHNS) overdose prevention sites we offer in two shelters and pose risks for clients and staff.

PQWCHC made an urgent request to Health Canada to extend our exemption for the Bathurst Street site, as with continued advocacy, we want an Exemption on hand should the province's position change, or should the court case rule in favour of continued SCS operations.

The TNG Kensington Market overdose prevention site (KMOPS) that was also facing forced closure April 1, 2025, will keep its doors open. PQW staff are working with colleagues at that site to facilitate our SCS clients accessing services there and our Parkdale SCS site, which remains open.

We cannot bring ourselves to say this is the end of SCS at or near the Bathurst site, 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 SCS extinct in Ontario.

Through the HART Hub we will continue to serve this community. 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 HART Hubs.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Robertson".

Angela Robertson - Executive Director

E: arobertson@pqwchc.ca

Parkdale Site

1229 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M6K 1L2
T: 416.537.2455
F: Admin: 416.537.5133
F: Clinical: 416.537.3526

Queen/Bathurst Site

168 Bathurst Street
Toronto ON M5V 2R4
T: 416.703.8482
F: Admin: 416.703.7832
F: Clinical: 416.703.8479

Satellite Site

27 Roncesvalles Avenue
Suites 301 & 503
Toronto, ON M6R 3B2
T: 416.537.8222
F: 416.537.7714