



November 26, 2025

Supervised Consumption Service in Parkdale Closes following Government Decision to Terminate Funding

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre (PQWCHC) regretfully announces the closure of its Consumption Treatment Service/Supervised Consumption Service (CTS/SCS) at our Parkdale site, 1229 Queen Street West, effective 6:00pm on November 22, 2025.

The closure is a result of the Government of Ontario's decision last month to terminate funding for the site. The Board of Directors and PQWCHC took exhaustive efforts to preserve this life-saving service. However, the combination of funding termination and significant risks in going against the direction of the provincial government and federal government requirements has made it impossible to establish a viable pathway forward.

"We are grief stricken to close a service that saves lives every single day. We fought so hard to keep it open" said Dana Fisher, Chair of the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre Board. *"Closing puts people at risk and is a devastating outcome for the community we serve."*

Our efforts to preserve life-saving care for the most vulnerable in our community is long-standing, and we are not alone in facing these challenges. Community agencies across Parkdale and the City at-large are increasingly navigating opposition to the delivery of essential services for unsheltered community members, and people who are struggling with substance use even as need intensifies. There is a growing pushback against harm reduction services, shelters, and supportive housing, yet sadly there is not the same push for governments to take systemic actions to solve these social crises. Agencies that provide these services have taken the brunt of public opposition for their essential work.

Parkdale SCS played a vital role in saving lives. This past summer alone, staff reversed 45 overdoses in the vicinity of the site, conducted four daily clean-ups, and worked closely with outreach, housing, and community-safety partners to address public drug use. Following the province's closure of three other SCS' in April 2025, the site had experienced an over 60% increase in service utilization. In just a few months, 360 new clients sought safety and support at the site and total visits to the service doubled.

Since the SCS opened in 2019, we have reversed 962 overdoses that could have cost someone's life.

An Exhaustive Effort to Remain Open

The Board of Directors and PQWCHC's commitment to this service and the Parkdale community led us to investigate every possible avenue to remain open, including exploring

Parkdale Site

1229 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M6K 1L2
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Queen/Bathurst Site

168 Bathurst Street
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Satellite Site

27 Roncesvalles Avenue
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additional funding. However, the combination of funding termination and significant risks in going against the direction of the provincial government and federal government requirements has made it impossible to establish a viable pathway forward. Ultimately, the barriers to securing a continuation of the service proved to be insurmountable.

This reality was further solidified by notification from Health Canada on Friday, November 21 of its intent to revoke the Centre's exemption to operate a supervised consumption service effective 11:59pm on November 22, 2025.

Our Commitment to a Dignified Transition

Our primary responsibility now is to try to secure a level of safety and well-being for our clients and the Parkdale community during this difficult transition. Our closure plan includes:

- Working directly with clients and community partners to support the migration of hundreds of SCS clients to other services and complementary support
- Expanding our mobile overdose prevention supports for the community
- Establishing a mobile and drop-in substance use care team to provide clinical care and overdose prevention throughout the South Parkdale community.

The closure of this site will put lives at risk. Ontario is still losing about 200 people every month to the toxic drug crisis. The government's decision to defund the site deepens that vulnerability.

To address the anticipated increase in overdoses in the community, we are launching weekly overdose response trainings at our Parkdale site that our partner can access. For additional inquiries on how you can attend, participate or amplify the trainings please contact communityengagement@pqwchc.ca

PQWCHC extends its deepest gratitude to its staff, volunteers, community partners and advocates who supported this essential service. We mourn this loss with our community and are beyond distraught at the lives that will be forever harmed in the wake of this closure. We remain steadfast in our broader mission to promote and defend harm reduction services, and ask you to do the same, because people who use drugs deserve evidence informed services without judgement.

Unending thanks,



Angela Robertson
Executive Director

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