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**PARKDALE
QUEEN WEST**
Community
Health Centre

Dear Parkdale Community,

As many of you know, recent months have brought significant change to our community. We have been navigating the abrupt notice of loss of funding and the subsequent closure of our Supervised Consumption Service (SCS) in November 2025, as well as the [recent spike in toxicity](#) of the unregulated drug supply and the recent rise in suspected opioid-related deaths reported by [Toronto Public Health](#).

On Friday, March 13, we heard word of another devastating blow: The [Government of Ontario announced](#) it will end funding for supervised consumption sites across the province. This decision will directly lead to preventable deaths, creating even greater risks for our community at a time when we can least afford it.

We appreciate the City of Toronto's swift action in opening the Better Living Centre as a winter respite for unsheltered community members. However, it has closed earlier than expected, leaving many without shelter during during what has been a persistently cold spring.

In the face of all this, we have taken time to reflect on how we can best show up for Parkdale during this challenging transition.



Continuing Care Post SCS Closure: The Health Centre's Doors Are Still Open

We are deeply saddened by the closure of our SCS and the [news of defunding that will impact our partners](#) in the east-end, at South Riverdale CHC and Fred Victor Centre and our colleagues around the province, especially at a time when so many of our most vulnerable neighbours are facing increased hardship. In response, we will continue to advocate for the Provincial Government to reconsider their decision to cut

funding, as well as commit to expanding the full spectrum of evidence-based substance use care and supports that people who use drugs want and need. We also remain committed to our mission to meet people where they are. Our **daily Breakfast Program continues to operate every morning at 10:00 am**, offering not only a warm meal but also a point of connection that helps link community members to recovery and treatment options, medical care and access to social services and housing supports.



Our outreach teams continue to make connections in the community, distributing naloxone kits, helping to assess chronic health conditions exacerbated by colder weather and linking unsheltered neighbours to medical and social services in the area. Doing what is possible to ensure the closure of the site does not close the door towards health care. Our outreach teams are also still available to complete sharps pick-up services in our local area. You can request this by emailing our Community Engagement mailbox at communityengagement@pqwchc.ca. Outside of our immediate local area, the City of Toronto also provides sharps removal from public property. To request removal by the city, contact [311](tel:311).

As we continue to navigate the reduction in services, we are thankful to be able to herald our successful partnerships with the City of Toronto, community members and local business. We are thus, incredibly proud to see that spirit of collaboration embodied by **PQWCHC Outreach Co-Ordinator Aaron Woznica**, who received a Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) **award for Well-being and Safety alongside the Parkdale Village BIA** this past December. For his work on the West Lodge Garden Revitalization Project and his dedicated focus on building local capacity for overdose response and harm reduction education, exemplifying what is possible when compassion and community action come together.



[Pictured: Representative of TABIA, Parkdale-High Park MPP Alexa Gilmour, Indra Morrison and Julie Fernandez of Parkdale Village BIA, Aaron Woznica of PQWCHC, Cassandra Alves of SafeTO and the Downtown Young BIA and Mayor Olivia Chow.]

We know that no single approach will meet every individual need. Meaningful support for those who are homeless and struggling with substance use requires a multifaceted approach that recognizes the need for pathways to treatment and harm reduction services, side by side.

An Update on Parkdale Neighbourhood Engagement

Following our SCS closure, the neighbourhood safety drop-in meetings have found a new home. We want to acknowledge that these neighbourhood meetings were instrumental in elevating Parkdale's concerns directly to the City of Toronto. It was our privilege to connect neighbours with additional city resources and we are grateful for the City's quick response in the reignition and charring of the Parkdale Community Safety Network. This network is a direct outcome of the voices raised in this very community, during the meetings we facilitated in 2025.

As always, we believe that public safety and well-being are shared responsibilities that involve community members, local businesses, public agencies and law enforcement working together. Each of us has an important role to play. We remain committed to doing our part by actively participating in the City's Parkdale Community Safety Network.

Housing is Health Care

We also know that stable housing is the single most effective intervention for the health problems that are caused by or accompany being unsheltered. A home provides stability, a place to rest and recover and makes health care possible.

We are proud to commend our partners who are building that foundation. Innovation in our health care system can sometimes feel daunting, but many partners have had great success, like **Dunn House**, supported by UHN, a PQWCHC partner in providing stabilization care. We are thrilled that former SCS clients are now living here, in Canada's first social medicine housing initiative. And we welcome the news that they are expanding with 54 new units for seniors. Their successful model demonstrates how integrating primary care with supportive housing is effective at reducing ER visits and they have shown an overwhelming drop in hospital stays among current tenants. This fall, **Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre (PARC)**, in partnership with the City of Toronto will be opening 42 new rent-geared-to-income units at 11 Brock Ave., with supports to maintain residents' health, wellbeing and housing stability.

In Gratitude

Loss is hard and the past few months have tested our community in profound ways. Thank you for continuing to show up for those who are most vulnerable. Your kindness, whether it be through a warm meal, a thoughtful word or advocacy for more resources for community members in Parkdale who need them most, makes a meaningful difference.



Angela Robertson - Executive Director



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