

PQWCHC staff anticipate increased death as a result of the closure of Supervised Consumption Sites

Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre is sharing information with the media about the care and service connections offered by our Supervised Consumption Services/Consumption and Treatment Services and the anticipated impacts of the province's planned closure of our Queen West SCS.

On November 27, 2024, CTV Toronto City Hall reporter Natalie Johnson visited our Queen West location to speak to staff and clients. One PQWCHC client, Chris, said "...finding [drug] paraphernalia and stuff around like that, people sleeping in the streets – [it will] increase by like, 20" after planned closure of the SCS. Nurse Practitioner Katie Langille added, "these policies [to close supervised consumption sites] are a death sentence for a lot of people," and SCS Manager Brittany Beaton emphasized, "people can't go to treatment if they're dead."

See the video below:

[Safe consumption site closures called catastrophic](#) [CTV News, November 27, 2024]

Share the video on [Facebook](#), [X](#)

Earlier in the month, TVO aired a piece in which staff and clients talked about the array of services and support offered by our supervised consumption sites, including overdose response, referrals to health care and treatment, wound and foot care, and social connection. "[People] get help that they wouldn't get done in hospital, and they get it done quicker," said one PQWCHC client. "[We] give in-house referrals to counselling and [the] HIV program, hep C program, and external referrals to detox, treatment beds, if that's what people want," said registered nurse Hannah Stahl.

See the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7WBkdQkYrk>

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The [Auditor General's report](#).

Here's the report's conclusion:

// Our Conclusion

We concluded that the Ministry does not have effective processes in place to meet the challenging and changing nature of the opioid crisis in Ontario. Specifically, the Ministry did not:

- » effectively implement Ontario's 2016 Opioid Strategy and initiatives that are responsive to the needs of Ontarians;
- » effectively oversee and co-ordinate the delivery of evidence-based services for people who require opioid-related services in an equitable, integrated and timely manner, and in accordance with applicable legislation, policies and agreements;
- » adequately and proactively monitor and enable appropriate opioid-prescribing and dispensing practices in accordance with applicable legislation, policies and standards;
- » adequately measure and publicly report on the performance of publicly funded services for people who require opioid-related services; and
- » provide a thorough, evidence-based business case analysis for the 2024 new model, Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of Ontarians.

The Ministry has accepted all seven recommendations.

Full report: https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/audits/en2024/AR-PA_ONopiod_en24.html

CBC/Canadian Press: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-opioid-strategy-report-1.7399634>

The Trillium: <https://www.thetrillium.ca/news/health/ontario-shutting-down-supervised-consumption-sites-without-assessing-harm-to-drug-users-auditor-9897812>