



September 5th 2023 Frequency Asked Questions

What level of government is responsible for what when it comes to harm reduction programs like consumption and treatment services?

- Consumption and treatment services (known as CTSs) are federally and provincially regulated in Canada. Specifically, the federal government provides the exemption for operation (i.e., for people to be able to use illegal drugs inside at the CTS); the provincial government provides funding for the CTS and sets standards. Toronto Public Health (TPH) inspects the six provincially designated CTS sites operating in the city as mandated by the Provincial Ministry of Health.

Does SRCHC receive funding to provide the security staff outside 955 Queen Street East?

- As a community health centre, our priority is providing care for our clients and patients, and most of our funding is earmarked for this work. We do not currently receive dedicated funding for security staff. Because of this, we have had to pull from other areas of our budget to pay for security. If the security model that is in place now is identified as an effective long-term solution to community safety concerns, we will work with the government to request additional funding to pay for security over the long term.

What steps have been taken to address concerns about back-to-school?

- We know back-to-school is a busy time in our community and we have prepared an extensive plan to engage children and families, further enhance community safety, and reduce loitering around the centre. Activities include:
 - **Healthy Kids, Safe Environments community engagement program.** We will be running after-school community health promotion events for children and families in the area next to the health centre for the first two weeks of September. Activities will rotate every day and will include a bike repair clinic, a fresh produce market,





environmental art, and more. For more information, visit:

<https://www.srchc.ca/events/categories/family-programs/>

- **Safety activities including daily needle sweeps.** We will continue daily needle sweeps (within 15 meters of the building), and additional sweeps throughout the week across seven broader community routes including surrounding Morse Public School. Increased security patrols by One Community Solutions Security during school travel hours, including along Queen Street between Heward Avenue and Carlaw Avenue and from Queen Street to the alley along Heward Avenue.
- Community health promotion events after school next to the health centre for kids/families for the first two weeks back, such as: bike repair, fresh produce market, and more. Information about these events is available here:
<https://www.srchc.ca/events/categories/family-programs/>
- **Efforts to reduce loitering including extended hours and new fencing.** The CTS continues its extended hours to limit loitering before and after school by opening at 8am and closing at 5pm with One Community Solutions Security focusing on ensuring a safe environment around SRCHC as part of their increased patrols during school hours. Also, in response to a community safety audit by Toronto Police Services a fence has been constructed around the property between the church and SRCHC. As part of this, a bench and some planters have been removed to discourage loitering.

Who is SRCHC partnering with to address community safety?

- Community safety and wellbeing is a shared responsibility. We are working with multiple stakeholders to understand and address concerns. These include neighbourhood residents, the staff and clients of our centre, the security staff we have hired to work outside at 955 Queen Street East, 55 Division of the Toronto Police Service and our elected officials at the school board, municipal, provincial and federal levels.





How does SRCHC learn about concerns of community residents?

- As members of the South Riverdale community for more than 45 years, SRCHC's work involves hearing from and working with community members in a number of ways. A current initiative is the Safer Community Committee which is comprised of neighbours, local businesses, SRCHC board members and community representatives/leaders who have volunteered to help improve the safety and well-being in Leslieville.
- When we began operating the CTS, SRCHC created the Supervised Consumption Services Community Liaison Committee, which meets quarterly and includes community members, the Leslieville BIA, 55 Division of Toronto Police Services and other stakeholders, including federal, provincial and municipal elected officials.
- Additionally, SRCHC's Board of Directors is made up of people who live and/or work in the community.
- If you would like to provide feedback, please fill in this form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftjh-VW9RjxcieXjauFUNz5cDY9CHasLggUGjNFGSSHm-SYA/viewform> or email the Safer Community Committee at scc@srhc.com

Who should I contact if I have a safety concern?

- In an emergency or if you are concerned for the well-being of yourself or someone else, call 911
- If you want to report a non-emergency police matter, call 416-808-2222
- If you need assistance with a needle that was not properly disposed of close (within 15 m) to the SRCHC, you can call us Monday – Friday between 9:00 – 5:00 at 416-461-1925 ext. 2344. For issues after hours or somewhere else in the neighbourhood, please call Toronto Public Health (indicate Communicable Disease) at 416-338-7600 or the City of Toronto at 311.

