



Statement to media on August 20, 2024 re: Minister of Health Sylvia Jones AMO announcement:

[Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with New Treatment Hubs: Province banning consumption sites near schools and daycares while investing \\$378 million more in 19 new treatment hubs](#)

SRCHC Media Statement:

"Our Board and senior staff will be carefully reviewing the Minister of Health's announcement this afternoon and the implications for consumption and treatment services (CTS) in the province. Our focus is on ensuring we have a plan in place for providing continued compassionate care to the clients we serve, support for our dedicated staff and dialogue with our neighbours."

- Gabriella Skubincan, Director, Community Engagement and Communications

Additional Background:

- Our consumption and treatment services (CTS), which are a small part of the comprehensive health care services provided at SRCHC, have always been about public health and public safety.
- We truly believe that our communities are safer when we can support people who use drugs and connect them with the support and treatment services they need when they need them.
- Consumption and Treatment Services are an entry point to healthcare for people who use drugs, often people with highly complex healthcare needs who face extreme stigma, enabling them to access comprehensive wrap around care. SRCHC staff are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs.
- The safety of our staff, clients and neighbours is critically important to all of us at SRCHC. We have listened to the concerns of our neighbours and are working to ensure our internal policies, procedures and practices protect the health and safety of our neighbours while providing life-saving health services to vulnerable community members.
- Community health centres across this province are needed now, more than ever. Community health centres provide social connection, access to healthcare, social support, mental health care, and life-saving health care services to our most vulnerable community members.





- Opioid toxicity is not just an issue in east Toronto. In 2023 more than 500 people died from opioid toxicity in Toronto. There were more than 2,600 opioid-related deaths across Ontario in 2023.
- By reversing overdoses, SRCHC helps reduce ER visits. In June 2024 there were 355 non-fatal overdose calls attended by Toronto Paramedic Services for suspected opioid overdose. In 2023, staff at keepSIX reversed 74 overdoses and 517 overdoses at Moss Park. Every overdose reversed is a life saved. Last year, there were more than a thousand instances of people being supported for/referred to mental health and treatment services.
- Between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, keepSIX CTS had more than 8,700 visits with an average of 733 visits per month.
 - 287 community sweeps were completed by keepSIX staff.
 - 1,306 visits for non-consumption during this time. This demonstrates the work CTS staff have done to address the many needs of service users, including food and housing insecurity, emotional support, ID clinics and warm referrals to additional services. SRCHC provides holistic wraparound support through the CTS to people who experience barriers to traditional healthcare services.

Summary of Media Coverage:

Before official announcement

- Toronto Sun <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/ford-to-close-drug-dens-near-schools-focus-on-treatment>
- Toronto Star https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/ford-government-expected-to-announce-restrictions-to-supervised-drug-consumption-sites/article_c8457fc8-5e73-11ef-8d58-d391b9d8add.html
- Globe <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-health-supervised-consumption-sites/>
- CityNews <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2024/08/20/ontario-safe-consumption-sites-drugs-schools-provincial/>
- CP24 <https://www.cp24.com/mobile/news/far-reaching-detrimental-impacts-says-toronto-s-boh-chair-as-province-announces-closure-of-10-supervised-drug-consumption-sites-across-ontario-1.7007091?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>





After announcement

- CBC Toronto <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-supervised-injection-sites-ontario-restrictions-1.7299398> (used the statement and some stats but it is near the end of the story. The video includes it about halfway through and references the reports as well)
- CBC TV <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6486419>
- Toronto Star https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/doug-ford-to-ban-safe-injection-sites-within-200-metres-of-schools-and-child-care/article_e688d506-5efb-11ef-bd4b-bb36fd8aa043.html
- Globe and Mail <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-ontario-supervised-consumption-sites-ban-schools/>
- Chronicle Journal (this is the Canadian Press story so will be picked up by numerous media and the quote and some stats are included) https://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/national/quebec/ontario-clamps-down-on-supervised-drug-consumption-to-close-10-sites/article_4b331b49-8092-5996-936c-afd4a925266d.html



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