

DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

755 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6R1

October 27, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
Government of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

By email: premier@ontario.ca

Consumption and Treatment Services Site closure – Ottawa

Premier Ford,

The Dalhousie Community Association represents part of Ottawa-Centre riding which includes the Somerset West Community Health Centre. The Centre currently operates a Consumption and Treatment Services site, offering life-saving measures to our neighbours struggling with addiction since 2017.

We were shocked and dismayed by your announcement that the province will no longer fund consumption and treatment services at this site after March 31, 2025. Last year, this service provided critical care to 542 individuals, including 487 overdose reversals, and made 7,140 referrals to housing, primary care, addiction and mental health services.

We need more help, of course. Additional treatment options and supportive housing are welcome. But if our neighbours die from overdoses while waiting for a bed or housing unit, we will have failed.

As to the safety of our residents, including those who need help with addiction and mental health, losing our CTS site will lead to more public drug use and therefore more used needles in our parks, on our sidewalks and in our driveways and back yards. We will all be less safe.

Many of us live within 200 meters of SWCHC, so please come and talk to us before making these decisions on our behalf.

Sincerely

(signed)

Catherine Boucher, President.

c.c.: Yasir Naqvi, MP, Ottawa-Centre
Joel Harden, MPP, Ottawa-Centre
Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, City of Ottawa
Councillor Ariel Troster, Somerset Ward