

May 14, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing to offer my support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

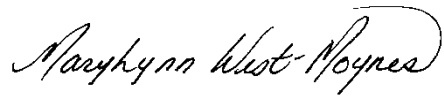
I believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase

access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "MaryLynn West-Moynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes
President and CEO

May 14, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing on behalf of Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care to offer support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

We believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community. Importantly, those who are using drugs will be able to access professionals directly which enhances their pathways to treatment. Other benefits include reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

As a partner in the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy, we also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including all Strategy member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

We look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,



Carol Lambie
President & CEO

May 17, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing on behalf of the John Howard Society of Simcoe and Muskoka to offer my support and emphasize the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

I believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies,

(705) 733-0683

(705) 733-9363

contact@jhssm.ca

80 Bradford St., Suite 228
Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7





to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

Suzanna McCarthy

Suzanna McCarthy M.S.W., R.S.W.

Executive Director

John Howard Society of Simcoe and Muskoka

May 17, 2021

Mayor Jeff Lehman
City of Barrie
70 Collier Street
P.O. Box 400
Barrie, ON
L4M 4T5

Re: Proposed Supervised Consumption Site for Barrie, ON

Dear Mayor Lehman,

I am writing as a member of Collier Street United Church in the City of Barrie to support the need for a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS).

In the report *Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy: An Action Plan for Our Communities*, co-chairs Dr. Lisa Simon and Dr. Rebecca Van Iersel state that “opioid misuse, addiction and overdose in Simcoe and Muskoka is an urgent problem,” adding that opioid-related death rates and emergency department visits in Simcoe Muskoka are “well above provincial averages, and continue to climb substantially.”

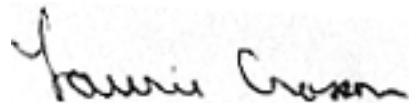
I understand the need for urgent care and intervention to harm reduction. I support the action plan and foundation pillars in the SMOS report. I also want to acknowledge there are people in our city dying because of toxic drug poisoning that are not opiates (such as methamphetamine).

I am supportive of the SCS, and in particular the site selected on Innisfil Street, because it will help decrease stigma towards people living with substance use disorder, allow for access to medical and social services and provide adequate drug testing. I hope the City Council of Barrie will support a site that offers the same intervention and treatment possibilities.

As a member of Collier Street United Church I often engage with those who live on the margins. Our faith teaches us we are called to act with justice when we see social issues that need to be addressed. Reading through the SMOS Action Plans, Pillar Three: Harm Reduction, I recognize that a SCS will not solve all the addiction problems for the City of Barrie, but it will help reduce public injection and the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C, it will enhance pathways to treatment and it will provide an effective referral mechanism towards treatment.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the solution regarding the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,



Laurie Crosson

cc: Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Dr
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9



May 17, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing on behalf of New Path Youth & Family Services to offer my support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

I believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Elizabeth McKeeman'.

Elizabeth McKeeman
CEO

Alyssa Wright

Cellist, Singer-Songwriter, Writer, Actor

May 16, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my support for the much-needed Supervised Consumption Site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

Having followed the process and progress of the Site Selection Advisory Committee, the public consultations, and the research and expertise of the CMHA, SMDHU and SMOS, I am fully confident in the applicants' determination that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. As a downtown resident, I feel it is imperative to make this service available as soon as possible. I know all too well the tragedy of losing someone to toxic drug poisoning while on a waiting list for a treatment centre bed — or losing them before they decide to seek treatment. Harm reduction is an essential component of dealing with the opioid crisis.

Too many lives have been lost since the 2019 delay of this SCS application, and to quote Benjamin Perrin: ***“those politicians who vote against Supervised Consumption Sites...have blood on their hands.”*** Barrie is in a crisis, and we need to be able to prevent toxic drug poisonings and the heartbreaking number of lives lost.

I believe that having a Supervised Consumption Site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Wright



Barrie Bayside Mission Centre

16 Bayfield Street
Barrie, ON L4M 3A4
Tel.: (705) 728-3737
Fax.: (705) 728-7101

May 17, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing on behalf of The Salvation Army Barrie Bayside Mission Centre to offer my support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

I believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Watkinson, Captain
Executive Director

William and Catherine Booth
Founders

Brian Peddle
General

Floyd J. Tidd
Commissioner

Shawn Critch
Divisional Commander

Letter of support

Dear Members of Barrie City Council

I am writing to offer my support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, ON and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940). As a resident of Barrie I have been a member of the Site Selection Advisory Committee since its inception. I can say with the utmost confidence that the process this committee and its applicants has undertaken has been a fulsome and inclusive one.

Comprehensive property searches and community consultations were conducted to determine that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community. The evidence that continues to emerge from communities similar to ours is that a supervised consumption site is the best response to our ever increasing opioid crisis. Many lives have been lost in our region. The effect of the pandemic has resulted in a doubling of the death rate. Those that have survived an overdose, as well as those continuing to use have missed the opportunity to connect with pathways to treatment that an SCS offers. Delaying the application for an SCS in Barrie will continue to increase the risk of HIV and hepatitis infections that result from needle sharing. Preventative measures that a SCS provides reduce overall health care costs and more importantly saves lives. I believe that having a SCS will benefit our entire community both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community.

I would like to acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy member agencies to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with the goal of enhancing prevention efforts and on harm reduction practices. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the applicants for their unwavering commitment to engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site. I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,
Victoria Scott
Resident of Barrie and Site Selection Advisory Committee member

May 14, 2021

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

To whom it may concern,

As we wrote in a similar letter of support almost exactly two years ago, Barrie is in an opioid-related overdose crisis, and we must take action to address it, for the good of everyone who calls this city home. In the last two years, the need has only grown.

A Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) is an evidence-based response to the escalating overdose crisis that has Barrie reporting 2.5 times the provincial average of overdoses. Similar sites in other Canadian cities save lives regularly, and the proposed site will almost certainly benefit some of the people we serve at Redwood who struggle with addictions of their own.

Supervised Consumption Sites have also been shown to increase public safety in the areas that surround them, reducing the number of people injecting drugs and littering of drug-related needles in driveways and alleys nearby, which is a current concern for us at Redwood. As many others have stated, there are several consumption sites all over Barrie at the moment, none of them safe. This is a needed intervention.

Harm reduction is just one pillar of the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS), aimed to save lives through decreasing stigma, offering the safest environment possible to consume drugs by preventing overdose and disease, and providing another, lower-barrier entry to treatment for those who are ready. While more work is needed to increase access to treatment and address the root causes of addiction, the SCS on its own will save and improve lives.

Redwood Park Communities supports the proposed Supervised Consumption Site at the proposed location of 19 Innisfil Street.

Sincerely,



Tim Kent
Co-Founder and CEO
Redwood Park Communities

May 14, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

To whom it may concern:

The Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH) wishes to convey our full support for the Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) in its proposed location of 19 Innisfil St., Barrie.

SCATEH recognizes SCSs as critical, evidence-based services, especially for marginalized populations including those experiencing homelessness. Sometimes problematic substance use is a contributing factor in an individual becoming homeless, and sometimes those experiencing homelessness turn to drugs as a survival or coping mechanism. Either way, high-risk substance use poses disproportionate levels of harm to those experiencing homelessness, making harm reduction approaches like SCSs particularly necessary for homeless populations. Attached is our position paper on this topic, with references.

A supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, reducing the risk of HIV and hepatitis C from needle sharing, adding low-barrier pathways to treatment, and promoting a safer environment for drug use. The applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

We are pleased to provide our full support for this life-saving service as we work as a city to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Fleury
Chair, SCATEH



SCATEH Position Paper on Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) and Homelessness

February 2021

The Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness recognizes Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) as critical, evidence-based services, especially for marginalized populations including those experiencing homelessness.

Background

It is well documented that supervised consumption sites reduce overdose deaths - to date, there have been zero overdose deaths in an SCS worldwide. (Drug Policy Alliance, 2020) Meanwhile, more than 20,000 Canadians have died as a result of drug overdoses since 2016.

Not only do SCSs reduce overdose deaths, they also improve access to care, including addiction treatment for those who are ready. They serve as low-barrier entry points to healthcare for marginalized populations who are often dismissed from mainstream healthcare settings, and the provision of sterilized equipment reduces the spread of blood-borne infections like HIV and hepatitis C.

While public perception persists that SCSs may increase substance use and local crime and discourage individuals from seeking addiction treatment, these concerns are not supported by existing evidence. (Magwood, 2020)

SCSs and Homelessness

SCSs also reduce the number of people injecting drugs in public spaces and needles discarded in the community, when they are located in the area where public drug use is occurring. These benefits can be largely attributed to the fact that SCSs, while open to all, are especially useful for our neighbours who are unhoused and are forced to live their lives on display in public spaces.

Sometimes problematic substance use is a contributing factor in an individual becoming homeless, and sometimes those experiencing homelessness turn to drugs as a survival or coping mechanism. (Feng, 2013) Either way, high-risk substance use poses disproportionate levels of harm to those experiencing homelessness, making harm reduction approaches like SCSs particularly necessary for homeless populations. (Magwood, 2020)

The Need in Barrie

As noted by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), Barrie ranks third among large municipalities in Ontario for opioid overdose emergency department (ED) visit rates, behind only St. Catharines and Oshawa. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) had 8 times the rate of opioid overdose ED visits in 2019 than the provincial average, and three times

the overall Barrie average. This included fifty overdose ED visits by those identifying as homeless. (SMDHU, 2020)

As an alliance to end homelessness, we advocate for everyone to have safe, affordable, stable housing and to be included in society. In the meantime, we also advocate for policy that protects those marginalized by homelessness from increased health risks, criminalization, and discrimination. For these reasons, SCATEH is in full support of a Supervised Consumption Site in downtown Barrie, where health data and research indicate it will be most useful, and accessible to those who need it most.

References

Drug Policy Alliance. (2020). <https://drugpolicy.org/issues/supervised-consumption-services>

Feng, C., DeBeck, K., Kerr, T., Mathias, S., Montaner, J., & Wood, E. (2013). Homelessness Independently Predicts Injection Drug Use Initiation Among Street-Involved Youth in a Canadian Setting. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 52(4), 499-501.

Magwood O, Salvalaggio G, Beder M, Kendall C, Kpade V, Daghmach W, et al. (2020). The effectiveness of substance use interventions for homeless and vulnerably housed persons: A systematic review of systematic reviews on supervised consumption facilities, managed alcohol programs, and pharmacological agents for opioid use disorder. *PLoS ONE* 15(1): e0227298. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0227298>

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. (2020). <https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/Topics/Drugs/opioids/Supervised-consumption-sites>



May 14, 2021

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

I am writing on behalf of Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County to offer my support for the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site follows from the process undertaken by the applicant and co-applicant, and advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, to conduct comprehensive property searches and community consultations. Through this, the applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between serving clients effectively and ensuring an acceptable fit within the surrounding community.

The high rate of opioid-related overdoses in Barrie, has been a growing concern impacting the health of our community. During the first 8 ½ months of 2020, 47 individuals lost their lives due to opioids, which is double the rate experienced during the same time period the previous year. The central north area of Barrie (which includes downtown) continues to be significantly impacted. We acknowledge that Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses and lives lost.

I believe that having a supervised consumption site will benefit our entire community – both those who are using drugs and the surrounding community – through reducing overdose fatalities, reducing public injecting, enhancing pathways to treatment, reducing the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promoting a safer environment for drug use.

I also acknowledge the work that has been done in our region to date, including by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies, to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community regarding a potential supervised consumption site.

I look forward to continuing to be part of the discussion regarding the important role of an SCS in helping to address the opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bergin,

Engage Barrie

Recipient: Barrie City Council, Mayor Jeff Lehman, Councillor Clare Riepma, Keenan Aylwin, Councillor Ann-Marie Kungl, Deputy Mayor Barry Ward, Councillor Robert Thomson, Councillor Natalie Harris, Councillor...

Letter: Greetings,

Say YES to Barrie's SCS - No More Opioid Deaths!

We are calling on City Council to approve and expedite the Canadian Mental Health Association and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's proposed Supervised Consumption Site, in order to support the health and safety of all our residents and our community, and help save the lives affected by this growing local health crisis.

The CMHA, SMDHU, and the Gilbert Centre brought this proposal before Council in May, 2019, but were met with roadblocks and stalling tactics, which continue still. SINCE CITY COUNCIL'S DELAY OF THIS APPLICATION, and the creation of this petition, ALMOST 150 PEOPLE IN THE REGION HAVE DIED FROM OPIOID POISONING (the number of deaths from September through January has not yet been confirmed – the number is likely closer to 200). [Source: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit]

City Council is not entitled to vote on any other health care service the CMHA, SMDHU or any other medical organization provides. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall has implored residents to respect the expertise and follow the SMDHU's guidance – they need to respect and follow our Health Unit's expertise and guidance on our opioid crisis as well. POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT BE BLOCKING RESIDENTS' ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING HEALTH-CARE SERVICES.

As Benjamin Perrin (UBC researcher, former special advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper & law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada), author of "Overdose: Heartbreak and Hope in Canada's Opioid Crisis" stated in a November 25, 2020 interview for Grace United Church:

"You don't have City Council votes on whether you're going to have EKG machines in your hospital. You don't have City Council votes on whether

or not we're going to allow parents to vaccinate their children. I hope you're not going to have a City Council vote on who gets the COVID-19 vaccine or not. Yet, we have City Council votes on whether or not there are supervised consumption sites. And I can tell you those politicians who in 2020 vote against Supervised Consumption Sites or Overdose Prevention Sites – I have no concern in saying this, without hyperbole – have blood on their hands. We know the research is clear. ... IF YOU CAN'T GET BEHIND SUPPORTING A LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL INTERVENTION, YOU NEED TO QUIT YOUR JOB, BECAUSE YOU'RE KILLING PEOPLE." [Source: "A Conversation with Benjamin Perrin"]

The Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) needs City Hall's assistance to implement an important part of its Harm Reduction strategy: the creation of a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) in the Barrie neighbourhood worst hit by this health crisis, our city core. This life-saving health service needs to be made available and accessible to our residents immediately, before we needlessly lose any more lives.

Please do not delay this application any longer – please say YES to Barrie's SCS.

Note: Petition was signed by 1117 individuals

Engage Barrie

Recipient: Barrie City Council, Mayor Jeff Lehman, Councillor Clare Riepma, Keenan Aylwin, Councillor Ann-Marie Kungl, Deputy Mayor Barry Ward, Councillor Robert Thomson, Councillor Natalie Harris, Councillor...

Letter: Greetings,

Say YES to Barrie's SCS - No More Opioid Deaths!

We are calling on City Council to approve and expedite the Canadian Mental Health Association and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's proposed Supervised Consumption Site, in order to support the health and safety of all our residents and our community, and help save the lives affected by this growing local health crisis.

The CMHA, SMDHU, and the Gilbert Centre brought this proposal before Council in May, 2019, but were met with roadblocks and stalling tactics, which continue still. SINCE CITY COUNCIL'S DELAY OF THIS APPLICATION, and the creation of this petition, ALMOST 150 PEOPLE IN THE REGION HAVE DIED FROM OPIOID POISONING (the number of deaths from September through January has not yet been confirmed – the number is likely closer to 200). [Source: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit]

City Council is not entitled to vote on any other health care service the CMHA, SMDHU or any other medical organization provides. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall has implored residents to respect the expertise and follow the SMDHU's guidance – they need to respect and follow our Health Unit's expertise and guidance on our opioid crisis as well. POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT BE BLOCKING RESIDENTS' ACCESS TO LIFE-SAVING HEALTH-CARE SERVICES.

As Benjamin Perrin (UBC researcher, former special advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper & law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada), author of "Overdose: Heartbreak and Hope in Canada's Opioid Crisis" stated in a November 25, 2020 interview for Grace United Church:

"You don't have City Council votes on whether you're going to have EKG machines in your hospital. You don't have City Council votes on whether

or not we're going to allow parents to vaccinate their children. I hope you're not going to have a City Council vote on who gets the COVID-19 vaccine or not. Yet, we have City Council votes on whether or not there are supervised consumption sites. And I can tell you those politicians who in 2020 vote against Supervised Consumption Sites or Overdose Prevention Sites – I have no concern in saying this, without hyperbole – have blood on their hands. We know the research is clear. ... IF YOU CAN'T GET BEHIND SUPPORTING A LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL INTERVENTION, YOU NEED TO QUIT YOUR JOB, BECAUSE YOU'RE KILLING PEOPLE." [Source: "A Conversation with Benjamin Perrin"]

The Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) needs City Hall's assistance to implement an important part of its Harm Reduction strategy: the creation of a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) in the Barrie neighbourhood worst hit by this health crisis, our city core. This life-saving health service needs to be made available and accessible to our residents immediately, before we needlessly lose any more lives.

Please do not delay this application any longer – please say YES to Barrie's SCS.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-01-14	"Compassion is community."
		2021-01-14	"The time to act was a year ago when this issue first came before council. Our city continues to lose people needlessly and there can be no more deferred votes. Lack of action is killing people. A Supervised Consumption Site won't address all the issues but it's one critical piece of medical care that would be fully funded by the Federal and Provincial Government. Enough is enough, vote yes to SCS!"
		2021-01-15	"No more delaying. It's time for our city council to support the application so the proponents can implement the SCS and save lives!"
		2021-01-15	"It's time to put the health and safety of the community over personal ideologies. Listen to the expertise of our health care professionals, and allow them to provide health care to the people who need it. Too many have died while councillors prioritized political "points" over people's lives. Remember who you are supposed to be serving."
		2021-01-15	"I lost my son to a toxic drug poisoning in Barrie. We need a Supervised Consumption Site now! No other mother should know this pain."
		2021-01-15	"It saves lives and offers possibilities for life changes for individuals."
		2021-01-15	"My son lost his life due to a drug overdose in Barrie. A Supervised Consumption Site could have saved his life. No more lost lives!"
		2021-01-15	"As a mother grieving the recent loss of my son due to a toxic drug poisoning in Barrie I want to see Barrie Council vote yes to a Supervised Consumption Site. My son was committed to this before he passed and I am committed to continue this fight. No other parent should ever have to know this pain. Supervised Consumption Sites save lives!"
		2021-01-15	"Healthcare is a right. NIMBYism is gross."
		2021-01-15	"I'm signing for Ryan"
		2021-01-15	"For Ryan. A life that could have been saved ."
		2021-01-15	"1. compassion2. science"
		2021-01-15	"Supporting"
		2021-01-15	"Long overdue!"
		2021-01-15	"Barrie needs a safe consumption site"

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-01-15	"We need to keep them safe and not alone."
		2021-01-15	"I, too ,live downtown. The safe site is needed, and research of other safe sites supports this decision."
		2021-01-15	"The reality is that it's already in our backyard...it just lacks infrastructure. People in our community are dying, it is reckless to ignore the safety and humanity of these community members."
		2021-01-15	"I'm signing because I lost my son to a Fentanyl overdose. I know SCS save lives. It's too late for our family but SCS can make a difference and save lives going forward."
		2021-01-15	"I am a firm believer in harm reduction - an overdose prevention site is one facet of this with demonstrated positive results. It is also a way of connecting people with services which they might otherwise not be able to. It saves lives. All lives matter."
		2021-01-15	"I believe the data shows this has been proven to save lives and at the end of the day saving lives should be the number 1 priority."
		2021-01-15	"harm reduction saves lives! by overlooking an scs, we are actively allowing vulnerable members of our community die alone. this is extremely overdue!!!"
		2021-01-15	"My son passed away from an accidental overdose. Until there is a safe supply this will keep happening. Help is needed BEFORE a person dies from not getting supports."
		2021-01-15	"this will save many many lives"
		2021-01-15	"I have lost a son to Overdose and I believe in harm reduction"
		2021-01-15	"Trauma and illness lead people down this path of substance abuse, it is a 'lifestyle' no one would willingly choose. This can open a door to reduced harm and treatment."
		2021-01-15	"Sudbury needs to help our people with their Drug addiction. I can't get my daughter help. We need more addiction centres"
		2021-01-15	"SCSs save lives."
		2021-01-16	"Barrie needs a SCS!"
		2021-01-16	"My best friend died of an overdose that could have been prevented"
		2021-01-16	"I lost my incredible and very loving 36 year old son to fentanyl- SCS are needed to save lives. They are needed now! Please, don't let more people feel the anguish I am."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-01-16	"I'm doing this for Ryan"
		2021-01-16	"This is a healthcare crisis. Every member of our community matters!"
		2021-01-16	"Humanity should supersede "not in my back yard" mentality"
		2021-01-16	"People suffering from addiction/mental health issues deserve our compassion and the experts say the SCS save lives - too many have died unnecessarily."
		2021-01-16	"In honor of Ryan Nyler of Barrie on"
		2021-01-16	"Safe consumption sites save lives"
		2021-01-16	"As a healthcare worker, I have watched this crisis for the past few years. Enough is enough. Science has proven that supervised consumption leads to fewer deaths, less hospitalizations and better likelihoods that folks will seek help and support to get away from opioid use. It also protects healthcare workers by reducing disease transmission. Every human life has inherent value."
		2021-01-16	"This petition contains so much good information!"
		2021-01-17	"I'm signing because compassion should be common sense. Human decency should come before the bottom line. I don't want any of my friends to see overdosed people on the sidewalks anymore. I want drug users to know we care about them and that they are still human."
		2021-01-17	"Addiction is a disease like any other disease and the people suffering need help support and treatment as much as anyone else. The stigma needs to end."
		2021-01-18	"People are people and deserve respect, love, and care."
		2021-01-19	"SCSs save lives and provide access to treatment and recovery programmes. End of argument."
		2021-01-20	"every addict is somebody's father , mother son or daughter. there lives have meaning and value , supervised consumption saves lives and is a doorway to treatment"
		2021-01-20	"I'm signing because this is a life and death issue. To many people have died whose lives could have been saved with this site. People with drug addiction issues are not making intentional 'bad choices', they are trying to medicate trauma. Let us truly address their deep trauma, not make it worse. Let's provide them a place to keep them alive and grow healing trusting relationships."
		2021-01-20	"To protect and support vulnerable people in our community."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-01-20	"This is a complex problem that requires many efforts, and supports. A Supervised Consumption Site is one of those supports, to help people be safe."
		2021-01-20	"I'm an MD that is interested in saving lives."
		2021-01-20	"Science says it is the correct direction forward for these people to improve their life and possible get off the addiction."
		2021-01-20	"I'm signing because supervised consumption sites save LOVES!!"
		2021-01-20	"I list my nephew to a drug overdose."
		2021-01-20	"We found our 36 year old son Ryan dead from an accidental overdose November 2019. We know the person who provided the poison that killed him is still in Barrie. The pain of losing a child is one that will never go away and if this saves one person, it's one more family that won't be left heartbroken"
		2021-01-20	"This is desperately needed in our community, in an accessible central location. Ignoring the problem is costing lives."
		2021-01-20	"It's too late for my son Jeremy. But not too late for many other families. Safe consumption sites save lives!"
		2021-01-20	"Our city needs this. People need this. They need our support & concern."
		2021-01-21	"It works, it makes sense and it saves lives. It will not only offer a safe place but also a place for people to talk to others that have addictions and professionals that will be at the site who can provide guidance towards recovery."
		2021-01-21	"Barrie needs this. Are we a compassionate community or not?"
		2021-01-21	"Monitoring the use of the DRUGS for the overdose possibility is going to SAVE LIVES and life is precious no matter what the circumstance is!!!!"
		2021-01-21	"ASAP"
		2021-01-21	"Supervised sites save lives."
		2021-01-21	"Teresa Kornblum"
		2021-01-21	"I'm a recovering addict and I know for a fact that a safe injection place could save many lives."
		2021-01-22	"I believe a SCS will save lives and help those whose addictions have taken over their lives. I can't state enough how important this is to Barrie and I can't understand why the city council would delay something as important as saving lives."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-01-22	"Let's get on with the job We will be able to handle challenges once we have it up . Take a leap of faith and do the right thing and open a SCS in on of the two proposed sites!!!!!!"
		2021-01-22	"Addiction is a disease, not a lifestyle choice!!"
		2021-01-23	"It stops unnecessary deaths from happening ."
		2021-01-24	"The opioid crisis rages on, and overdose deaths in Barrie continue to increase in number. Public health data and relevant research indicate that it's time for a supervised consumption site -- located in DOWNTOWN Barrie. This is a medical matter, and also a social justice issue"
		2021-01-24	"Because the sites work, no more stigma, no more deaths!"
		2021-01-27	"These stations need to be set up for those with mental illnesses and substance abuse so we can save more lives!"
		2021-02-01	"It is so desperately needed"
		2021-02-01	"I deeply support this initiative. As a nurse I find the addiction situation in Simcoe County deplorable. This is an illness requiring all applicable tools to be used. Safe sites are important. Ellen Bechta"
		2021-02-04	"Saves lives"
		2021-02-04	"This is a great way to open the door for someone's recovery."
		2021-02-08	"WE NEED ONE! The closest one is in TORONTO! I am lucky to be alive today but were losing our people every day! Do something about it."
		2021-02-09	"Because I like to help as much as possible"
		2021-02-10	"Opoid have caused far too many health problems and deaths."
		2021-02-11	"seems like a no-brainer that trained medical staff and researchers should lead on these issues, not conservative, fear-mongering, uninformed aholes at city hall."
		2021-02-11	"Persons living with addiction and mental illness are people. They need support and dignity. They are daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers. They want to live. A safe are injection site, in the location where they use, will save lives. It will also make the downtown safer for all businesses and residents because users will not have use public rest rooms. You would find less needles discarded in public areas. Moving the location away from where addicts use is counter intuitive to public safety and the safety of the people who use. I ask the BIA, what if it was your daughter or son ???? If it would save their life you would not oppose these sites."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-02-11	"Working with mental health during a pandemic means we need this more than ever"
		2021-02-11	"Harm reduction tactics and SCS save lives and make communities a safer place for EVERYONE who lives in them."
		2021-02-12	"In needs to be where it will do the most good which is in the downtown area"
		2021-02-12	"My family lives in Barrie. Addiction is a disease, and this is a healthcare service. Stop blocking health care services."
		2021-02-12	"Mental Health and Addiction is an ever growing issue that needs to become priority, Ottawa is making it one, so should Barrie!"
		2021-02-13	"People are dying because of ignorance, prejudice and greed. Put it in my backyard because these are my neighbours."
		2021-02-13	"No more opioid deaths! Harm reduction is health care."
		2021-02-13	"This is long overdue. Compassion for others is needed."
		2021-02-15	"This touches me personally through friends of mine"
		2021-02-15	"A site is recommended by the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit.... we listen to them about Covid.... why not about this.... it saves lives."
		2021-02-15	"Everyone deserves to be safe, including the most vulnerable of our community members. And in any case, wouldn't you rather know that supervised consumption is happening rather than seeing the evidence of unsupervised consumption littered about your neighbourhood?"
		2021-02-16	"My brother died April 26,2020 from fentanyl, herion overdose"
		2021-02-16	"A glorious lifeline connected us while she grew in my womb.Years later, she was injured. A deadly lifeline provided escape from pain and PTSD.It can happen to anyone.Our community has strong roots, nurturing arms, space in our minds and hearts to have compassion for those who struggle.Using kinder words and educating ourselves on the complex nature of substance use disorder will strengthen all.Creating a line to erase stigma is needed.Kathy Cole"
		2021-02-16	"It will save lives."
		2021-02-16	"I'm signing because enough is enough! Do the right thing and move forward with the safe consumption site(s)."
		2021-02-16	"My entire family lives in Barrie. I've suffered through my own addictions while watching family differ through their own. Barrie NEEDS a safe consumption site and they need it NOW."
		2021-02-16	"One step closer to addiction being recognized as a disease instead of a choice, and a place like this could save thousands of lives."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
		2021-02-16	"Because I care about others"
		2021-02-17	"Because my brother watched a man overdose downtown on the streets. Because we have the opportunity to save lives and need to take it. Because everyone deserves to feel safe and free from harm."
		2021-02-27	"I am signing because I have a friend who lost his 22year old son due to fentanyl poisoning, called overdose death. His son was not an addict, used the drug only occasionally."
		2021-03-12	"People with the disease of addiction deserve empathy, compassion, and these sites have been proven to save lives. So much research on their efficacy has been done. The evidence is clear: supervised injection sites save lives."
		2021-03-24	"I support this opportunity of love and compassion."
		2021-05-07	"I'm signing because I care. Stop the stigma and get them the space, resources and help they need"
		2021-05-07	"This is 2021 and it's time to help those in our community who are most vulnerable. Protecting our citizens from danger is what a society is supposed to do. This site will help do that."
		2021-05-07	"I'm signing because no human, no citizen, none of my neighbors (housed or otherwise, user of drugs or not) deserves to die for an addiction when we know how to help them. To know how to prevent the death of a neighbor and choose otherwise is cowardly, vile, and the result of excessive, reality binding privilege."
		2021-05-07	"We need to save lives. These are people that need our help and support."
		2021-05-07	"All people deserve respect."
		2021-05-07	"We need to save lives and improve the quality of life for everyone who would use this safe injection site."
		2021-05-08	"Someone I love uses drugs."

2021-05-16

Canadian Mental Health Association - Simcoe County
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, and
Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy
c/o Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON L4M 6K9

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

Barrie is in a crisis when it comes to opioid overdoses, both survivable and fatal. Barrie's high rate of overdose impacts the health of our community. I support—and wholeheartedly believe in—the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie, Ontario, and the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

The choice of this site is advised by the SCS Site Selection Advisory Committee, which conducts comprehensive property searches and community consultations. The applicants have determined that this site offers the best balance between effective service and acceptably fitting in with our community.

In my opinion, a vote against supervised consumption sites is a vote for needles left behind—accidentally or incidentally—where passersby can encounter them. Please help everyone by accepting the above proposal which will unquestionably reduce overdose fatalities, reduce public injecting, enhance pathways to treatment, reduce the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, and promote a safer environment for the inevitable self-medication performed by people who hurt. Government should not be in the business of adding to that hurt by stripping reasonable healthcare from drug users, therefore indirectly contributing to the overdose fatalities of citizens who deserve better.

Good work has already improved the lived of drug users in our region, including work done by Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy (SMOS) member agencies. They have helped to decrease the stigma of those using drugs, to increase access to treatment, to educate the community on root causes of substance use with a goal of enhancing prevention efforts, and on harm reduction practices including engaging the community via the supervised consumption site mentioned above.

I anticipate, through your sense of responsibility to your constituents, that I can look forward to seeing real change in Barrie that saves lives. Be the heroes we need: address the opioid crisis the way it needs to be—with a supervised consumption site.

Sincerely,
Brian MacLean

May 17, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re: Support for Proposed Barrie Supervised Consumption Site at 19 Innisfil St.

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is a strong supporter of developing a Safe Consumption Site in Barrie.

Over the past three years, RVH's Emergency Department has cared for almost 1,500 patients suffering an opiate overdose. Although the 2018 opening of RVH's Rapid Access Medicine (RAAM) Clinic in Barrie, as well as in Orillia, Midland and Wasaga Beach, has resulted in a 45 per cent decrease in the number of overdose patients requiring emergency care, it is still an extremely concerning health and societal issue facing our community.

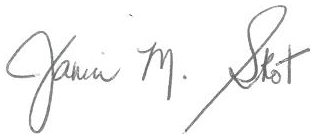
After careful analysis, consideration and discussion with our team of addiction experts at RVH's Withdrawal Management Centre and the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinics, RVH supports the need for a supervised consumption site in Barrie at the proposed location of 19 Innisfil St. (also known as 80 Bradford St. Unit 940).

At RVH "Safety is our Promise" and we believe that having a supervised consumption site within our community will help reduce overdose fatalities, reduce public injecting, enhance pathways to treatment, reduce the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C from needle sharing, promote a safer environment for drug use and reduce stigma associated with addiction.

The RVH Withdrawal Management Centre and the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinics, located at 70 Wellington St. West, provide essential services to this vulnerable patient population. Through these programs we have come to recognize the importance of a centrally located and accessible Safe Consumption Site. As addiction is a complex disease, we understand that recovery requires a multifaceted approach and it has been our experience that easily accessible services provide the most long-term benefit to individuals maintaining recovery and remaining safe.

RVH looks forward to continuing to work with its partners in supporting our community and addressing the opioid crisis.

Respectfully;



Janice M. Skot, MHSc, CHE
President & Chief Executive Officer