

From: Martyn Judson
Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2026 9:14 PM
To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SUBMISSION TO SPPC

I, Martyn Judson, request this email submission be added to the 6th Meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee, Item 4.6 - Councillor Ferreira - Advocacy Request - For Profit Addiction Treatment in Ontario.

Members of the Committee,

I, Martyn Judson, am a physician who was licensed for 50 years until 2025 to practise by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, specializing in the discipline of Addiction Medicine. I am certified by the Royal College of General Practitioners (UK)in the Management of Substance Misuse and by the International Society of Addiction Medicine. Until retirement I was an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Family Medicine at Western University . I co-authored the first edition of the Methadone Treatment Guidelines published by the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons.

I was the first physician west of Toronto to prescribe methadone for the management of opioid addiction in 1991. That practice grew rapidly and ultimately evolved into Clinic 528, located at 528 Dundas St.

In 2012 twenty two physicians were providing opioid agonist therapy (methadone, Suboxone) to over 1300 patients at Clinic 528.

Unofficial information from the London Police Service indicated that petty crime was reduced in correlation with every expansion of the clinic.

Methadone and Suboxone in essence have three valuable properties; the virtual eradication of withdrawal symptoms, a significant reduction in cravings to use opioids and blocking the access by other opioids to those receptors in the brain responsible for inducing euphoria. Effectively they stabilize the nervous system, rendering the patient healthy in all domains thereby allowing them time to develop appropriate coping skills, a better lifestyle, and chances for rehabilitation.

Since the introduction of Safe Supply Clinics to London, the first being located at the Inter Community Health Centre, the number of patients retained at Clinic 528 has steadily declined with many of those patients choosing access to highly addictive opioids over recovery, made possible with methadone, and Suboxone.

Clinic 528 has always operated to a high ethical standard ,with patients being closely monitored to minimize the risk of drug diversion. At one time the clinic was considered the unofficial " Gold Standard" for opioid agonist treatment in Ontario, because entry into rehabilitation is encouraged.

On the other hand, Safe Supply Clinics issue prescriptions for highly addictive, short acting opioids in dosages far in excess of need which have the ability to perpetuate the patients' addictions. Such opioids may be pharmaceutical grade, but the high probability of these medications being diverted to the street is not good medicine and causes significant harm to individuals and society as a whole.

This situation in London has been aggravated by an abundance of Safe Supply Clinics, which seemingly provide no avenues for patients to seek a path to recovery. Instead, patients are being locked into their addictions, thereby exacerbating their need to escalate their opioid intake. The response has been the opening of more Safe Supply Clinics, which seemingly operate primarily for financial gain. This is an affront to those who understand addiction in detail, but whose work has been thwarted by unscrupulous healthcare professionals; their

actions are ,in my opinion, unethical, dehumanizing and stigmatizing, amounting to malpractice, conducted in the name of harm reduction. There is far more to recovery than harm reduction.

It is my belief that until the operation of Safe Supply Clinics are brought under control or preferably eliminated the City of London will continue to have the reputation of being the city of easy access to addictive opioids.

I trust this information is a benefit to you during your deliberations and I sincerely request that you consult those who understand the fundamentals of addiction treatment before you make decisions. Thank you.

Martyn Judson