

Dear SPPC Committee,

I am writing regarding Item 4.6 – Councillor David Ferreira's Advocacy Request on For-Profit Addiction Treatment in Ontario, scheduled for discussion on Monday, April 20, 2026.

As both a Dundas business owner and an OEV resident, I urge the council to support Councillor Ferreira's request, specifically concerning the administration of safe supply by for-profit pharmacies without additional addiction services.

First and foremost, I will echo David's letter that I am not attacking safe supply as a strategy but rather how it is currently administered.

For years, we've witnessed the devastating impact of the opioid crisis on communities, families, and cities. The crisis largely began with Purdue Pharma and the Sackler family's profiteering from OxyContin, and its fallout continues to harm North America. We cannot continue to allow others to profit off the pain and destabilization of people's health for the profits of a few.

What we've learned is that addiction services must have safeguards to prevent vulnerable populations from being exploited for profit. Safe supply and harm reduction can aid recovery, but only when combined with comprehensive services. To my knowledge, for-profit pharmacies offering telehealth prescriptions and dispensing medications do not align with effective harm reduction practices. While telehealth can increase access to healthcare, especially in underserved areas, concerns exist about the effectiveness of remote prescribing for addiction treatment without proper follow-up and oversight.

There is strong evidence that addiction treatment is more effective when it involves a comprehensive healthcare model with in-person support. Studies have shown that face-to-face interactions between patients and healthcare providers increase the likelihood of successful treatment, especially when combined with other forms of care, such as counseling, mental health support, and long-term follow-up.

We are already seeing diversion in our community. The current for-profit pharmacy model has already compromised one key approach to addiction treatment. In the face of this crisis, we cannot afford to lose any strategy. We need every tool available to address the challenges our city and society are facing.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Tara Davies