

April 20, 2026

Dear Councillors and Mayor Morgan,

My name is Brendon Samuels and I am a resident of Ward 4. I am writing with respect to item 4.6 on the SPPC meeting agenda for Tuesday April 21, 2026: "*Councillor D. Ferreira - Advocacy Request - For-Profit Addiction Treatment in Ontario*". I consent for my submission to appear on the public agenda.

I urge you to support the motion being brought by Councillor Ferreira calling for further advocacy to the province. While the City of London, and Canadian society as a whole, still have a long way to go to fully address the interconnected challenges of homelessness, addictions and mental health, I appreciate that we have made meaningful local progress under the current term of City Council thanks to your decisions, and I applaud your efforts to date. Together, London is saving lives and helping people to find paths to recovery and stability.

Notwithstanding the progress we are making, I believe the manner in which medications are being administered and distributed by certain for-profit entities, particularly in the downtown core, warrants further attention. I am concerned that our progress is being jeopardized by their practices, and encourage you to call upon the provincial government to fulfill their responsibility for oversight.

Oversight and regulation of addiction treatment centres and retail establishments that administer opioids are squarely matters of provincial jurisdiction (i.e., delivery of health care). In light of the concerns about for-profit providers that have been raised in the community (as highlighted by [CTV News](#)) I believe the City of London should request the Government of Ontario to clarify the rules and take a closer look at the situation. The public expects standards for patient care to be applied to for-profit providers, just as the government applies standards for public providers. However, this is beyond the City's jurisdiction and capacity to implement.

I recognize that other members of Council have been drawing attention to similar concerns about opioid distribution over the past few years, reflecting the importance of these crises to your constituents. An important distinction should be made here between criticizing frontline agencies, individual service providers and their staff, or the vulnerable people accessing services, and advocating to a higher level of government to address problems that are legally their responsibility.

I keep hearing about very concerning trends across our province in terms of the Ford government shifting resources to prioritize for-profit care providers. It is incumbent upon the province to ensure there is proper oversight and mechanisms to limit harmful practices and exploitation of patients and communities. Nowhere does this pose greater urgency than on the frontlines of these crises, where provisions of medications and supplies can have life-altering consequences for drug users, and if not managed carefully, potential deleterious effects on neighbours and surrounding businesses.

I encourage you to pass the motion introduced by Councillor Ferreira, and to cooperate with higher levels of government to ensure there is accountability from for-profit providers. I thank you for continuing to apply evidence-based measures that serve our city's most vulnerable residents.

Brendon Samuels