

Providing counselling, advocacy and support for abused women. Offrant conseils, défence des driots et soutien aux femmes victimes de violence.

April 10, 2018

Chair and Members
Planning and Environment Committee

Re: Proposed supervised consumption site at 120 or 372 York St., London ON

Notwithstanding the absence of an official plan and zoning amendment by planning staff, the London Abused Women's Centre (LAWC) supports the joint application of the Middlesex-London Health Unit and the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection to open a supervised consumption site at either 120 or 372 York Street. Both locations are centrally located and accessible.

LAWC delivers its service from evidence-based research showing the link between trauma, mental health and substance use. The agency advocates for well-resourced services to provide individuals with choices about the services that best meet their needs. This includes options to choose attending methadone clinics, abstinence and/or harm reduction counselling agencies, detox and rehabilitation and/or safe consumption sites.

The London Abused Women's Centre believes all individuals have a right to immediate access to accessible, safe and convenient services.

As a caring and compassionate community, we have a responsibility to ensure that the lives of all Londoners are valued. Providing access to a supervised consumption site is an urgent matter that will save lives.

We encourage London City Council to support the application by Middlesex-London Health Unit and the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and move immediately towards approving a supervised consumption site.

Sincerely,

Megan Walker

Executive Director