

April 26, 2018

To: Chair and Members of Planning and Environment Committee, City of London, ON
Councillor Anna Hopkins
Councillor Stephen Turner
Councillor Maureen Cassidy
Councillor Tanya Park
Councillor Jesse Helmer

Re: Siting of Supervised Consumption Services

I am writing as a long-time citizen of London, ON and a medical student who is invested in individual and community health. I was born and raised in London, attended both elementary and high school here, and returned to London after my undergraduate degree to work for the YMCA of Western Ontario for several years. Although I currently attend medical school at McMaster University, I intend to return to London after graduating and have strong ties to the city through my family and friends. All of this to say **I care deeply about our city and her citizens.**

People who use drugs deserve high quality healthcare based on the best available evidence.

About 400 people have died in London due to substance use and overdose in the last decade.¹ Supervised consumption sites improve the health of people who use substances by providing new needles and reducing infection transmission, and reducing mortality from overdose, as well as connecting people to other healthcare and social services.² They also improve public order by reducing discarded used needles and public injecting.

I wholeheartedly urge the Committee to follow the recommendations of our city's public health professionals to endorse 241 Simcoe Street and 446 York Street as appropriate locations for permanent Supervised Consumption Facilities and commit that, when a bylaw is put in place to establish specific zoning criteria for Supervised Consumption Facilities in London, the endorsed locations automatically be deemed zoned for such use. **It's time to show people who use drugs that their lives matter to this city.**

Sincerely,



Claire Bodkin

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¹ Lives Lost to London's Opioid Crisis to be Remembered at Ivey Park This Friday — Middlesex-London Health Unit [Internet]. Healthunit.com. 2018 [cited 26 April 2018]. Available from: <https://www.healthunit.com/news/400-lives-lost-memorial>

² Potier C, Lapr v te V, Dubois-Arber F, Cottencin O, Rolland B. Supervised injection services: what has been demonstrated? A systematic literature review. Drug & Alcohol Dependence. 2014 Dec 1;145:48-68.