

Dear City Council,

We greatly need your assistance in saving lives. We are in an opioid crisis. London has been particularly affected. We have had a significant problem starting with prescription opioids and now including illicit fentanyl. We have had many deaths and severe morbidity from overdose as well as infections complications of injection drug use. This always results in numerous emergency visits and hospital admissions. I am writing to ask you to be part of the solution.

Please allow 446 York Street to be zoned for a supervised consumption site. Supervised consumption sites save lives. They are an important part of health care for people suffering from opioid use disorder.

They prevent overdose deaths, provide safe equipment, and teach people how to use their equipment properly to prevent infections. They also connect people with services needed for recovery. I have been greatly impressed by the wonderful service provided at our current Temporary Overdose Prevention Site.

The York street location has been well thought out. It is located central to where we know people are already using. This will improve safety in the area by decreasing injection drug use in public areas and reduce the risk of needle waste. A security guard will also add to safety.

Addiction is not a choice. It is a medical condition. Many people in London have developed addiction from prescribing practices of health care providers and related to past trauma. These people need and deserve support, and to be valued in order to move forward in their lives. Supervised consumption sites are an evidence- based form of support.

Thank you in advance for caring about all people in London, including those most marginalized who often do not have a voice.

Please feel free to use this letter openly.

Sincerely,

Sharon Koivu MD MCFP (PC)