



To Whom It May Concern:

Dear Councillor,

We are STRONGLY recommending that Council re-assess then recognize and protect centre-based licensed child-care centres from 'primary' methadone clinics locating within 300 meters.

The treatment of individuals for their addictions is an important consideration in our community and in no way are we objecting to methadone clinics existence. Of prime concern for us is the possible impact that these centres will have through the close proximity exposure of our young, vulnerable children.

It is our position that since the most vulnerable and at risk patients attend 'primary' clinics, and pharmacies can only dispense methadone to patients who are stable; we recommend separating 'primary' clinics and pharmacies for the required location restrictions. A 300 meter restriction is adequate for 'primary' clinics and less necessary for pharmacies.

Secondly, define daycare as centre-based licensed child-care centres. This would address the obstacle that including child-care centres in the restrictions would reduce the number of locations available for methadone distribution. As well, it should be remembered that there are other opportunities to dispense methadone through clinics serving less than 40 doses per day that are currently exempt from re-zoning applications.

We feel strongly that our voice in this is imperative to what you are thinking. Families and children require advocates to ensure that their public safety and exposure is utmost in our mind.

Our question in all of this is: Why would you NOT consider our recommendation?

It offers a more suitable alternative that places the basis of the decision on public safety and not solely on the number of potential locations.

Sincerely,

Jane Falconer,
Executive Director.

