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November 27, 2018

Clerk for the Planning and Environment Committee (PEC) E: hlysynsk@London.ca

Re: Letter of Support for the Proposed Consumption and Treatment Site at 446 York Street

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of our organization and the Board of Directors, to support the proposed location for the Consumption and Treatment Site (CTS) at 446 York Street. Addiction Services of Thames Valley supports the development of this permanent site and out Board of Directors has strongly endorsed both the Temporary Overdose prevention Site (TOPS) as well as the proposed permanent site.

Addiction Services of Thames Valley (ADSTV) is a collaborative partner in the TOPS site and currently provides staffing resources to TOPS and warm transfers / access to treatment and other addiction supports. In the permanent site, ADSTV will continue to collaborate, support those who use the CTS services as well as facilitate access to treatment for those who in need.

ADSTV offers many programs that would support the visitors to the CTS and believes that these harm reduction strategies are vital to the community. TOPS has proven that there is a need in London for CTS and that 56 lives have been saved. The award – winning Temporary Overdose Prevention Site has been a success with 56 overdoses reversed, over 10,000 injections off the street and 150 people referred to local drug treatment. In addition, there has been less needle waste downtown.

The location at 446 York is accessible to those in need, is within walking distance from well-known injection "hot spots" and will continue to increase access to drug treatment and other vital services for mental and physical health. Security on site will continue to provide support for the neighbourhood and the visitors to CTS will continue to feel respected and valued. We know that the City of London values respect for all of its citizens and that this vital healthcare service has a legitimate place in the continuum of care.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information and we look forward to the approval of this location.

Yours truly,

Linda Sibley, Executive Director Addiction Services of Thames Valley

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cc: Generic PEC Office, pec@london.ca

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Brian Lester, Executive Director, Regional HIV/AIDS Connection, <u>BLester@hivaidsconnection.ca</u> Arielle Kayabaga, Councillor Elect for Ward 13, <u>akayabaga@london.ca</u>