

# Safe Injection Site Report

I am writing to you to help with deciding if 446 York Street is a proper to apply a Safe Injection Site at this location.. Please understand that I do NOT oppose the concept of a Safe Injection Site operating in the city of London. The services that are provided are crucial in saving lives and prevent further spread of HIV and health related issues. I fully support the Health Unit but not the proposed location.

Please consider the following factors

A) Despite success stories and impressive statistics in some cases, relevant concerns have been voiced by those who worry about the potential consequences of developing safe injection initiatives. These concerns include questions about how these facilities might have on their host communities and local residents. When asked about Vancouver's experience with safe injection initiatives, Vancouver Police Union President Tom Stamatkis cautioned other municipalities considering similar initiatives against overstating the benefits of safe injection sites. He stated that while harm-reduction principles were the focus of Insite in Vancouver and had a largely positive effect on the community, the downsides of these programs are often minimized, especially when it comes to crime rates. Stamatkis's statement highlights the main concern of those who are strongly against establishing safe injection sites in Toronto, which is that these facilities promote the illegal activity that goes into locating, acquiring, and using the drugs in question. Furthermore, there has been concern that crime rates and illicit activity will increase in areas where safe injection sites have been proposed, exposing communities to unnecessary risk.

B) Will safe injection locations stop addicts from using in public places? Absolutely not! Vancouver sees 15,000 injections per day. InSite, their drug injection site, monitors just 600 injections per day.

C) Vancouver B.C. police had to **add 90 police officers** to the areas around Hasting Street in Vancouver (where the Safe Injection Site is located) to try to control the crime.

D) Vancouver's program also admits that up to 20% of their users migrated from other parts of the country to come there. A program located at 446 York Street would most certainly accelerate the influx of homeless addicts that we are already struggling to find resources for.

E) Look at our existing Methadone Clinic located at 528 Dundas Street, across from HB Beal Secondary School. Everyone had good intentions with locating this clinic across from the school and we were compassionate with approving this location. Unfortunately, the present location has had drastic effects in the neighborhood with loitering, open drug use and exposing the students to an environment that both HB Beal and CCH Secondary High Schools are forced to experience.

F) People who will use on school property will still be subject to possible charges. This location will require more effort from Police services to control the surrounding area. Further funds the city of London will need to provide to the Police board to monitor activities surrounding school properties.

G) With the government support allowing Safe Injection Sites to operate, it sends a mixed message to young people that might be considering illicit drug use. Exposing students to possible addiction.

H) Detox treatment involves the use of Methadone. The closes location for Methadone treatment is again, across the road from HB Beal. This will further expose student attending HB Beal and CCH Secondary to further addicts trying to seek help for their addictions.

I) The Provincial Government has expressed that SIS has to operate separate from area schools. A chain link fence does not provide or should be considered a tool that separates any proposed SIS location from school properties. The argument that a fence will assist

or prevent the students from being exposed to drug activity is not acceptable. There is not a fence that separates CCH Secondary or the Child Reach Day Care Center from 446 York Street. CCH Secondary is only 380 meters away and the HB Beal Secondary is only 78 feet from this proposed spot.

J) The Men's Mission is located across the street from 446 York Street. The rules that allow clients to the Mission facility clearly state "no person will be allowed into the building if they have consumed alcohol or consumed narcotics". Users of the SIS will force people to wonder the area until their next fix. Increasing the surrounding community to risk of crime and loitering.

H) Lastly, both the Middlesex and Catholic School Boards have expressed strong concerns with the 446 York Street location and have verbally expressed their opinion that a SIS location be at least 600 meters away from any secondary education center.

Thank you for taking the time to read over the above concerns and please feel free to contact myself if there are concerns or questions regarding the provided literature.

Kind Regards

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