



PARN Position Statement on Overdose Prevention Sites in Peterborough

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

PARN is collaborating with its partners in the Peterborough Drug Strategy – Peterborough Public Health, the Peterborough Police Service and Fourcast – to respond in both the short-term and longer-term to the opioid crisis and stop the tragic deaths that are occurring in our community due to opioid poisoning. Peterborough currently has the 4th highest rate of opiate overdose deaths in Ontario.

Part of the long-term solution we are working toward is the establishment of a **Supervised Consumption Site** (SCS) in our community – a process that has been expedited by the federal government in recent months but still requires an application and approval process.

Thanks to the thoughtful leadership of the Canadian and Ontario governments, we have an opportunity to immediately respond to the opioid crisis while we await approval for a Supervised Consumption Site.

On Thursday, December 7, the Ontario government formally requested that the federal government allow Ontario to approve and fund **Overdose Prevention Sites** (OPS) in the province. Under current federal policy, the Government of Canada is allowing provinces experiencing a state of emergency due to opiate poisonings to request exemptions under federal law to allow for temporary **Overdose Prevention Sites**.

Overdose Prevention Sites differ from Supervised Consumption Sites in that they do not require a permanent location or the supervision of trained medical professionals in order to operate in the community.

While we work towards the establishment of a permanent Supervised Consumption Site in our community, **PARN endorses the establishment of temporary overdose prevention sites in Peterborough and will work to support these sites wherever possible.**

Recognizing that those closest to this crisis are the most knowledgeable and motivated to end it, PARN also supports the efforts of its staff, peers, volunteers and service users who use their own time to support the establishment and operations of temporary overdose prevention sites.

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