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REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

June 7, 2022

To the Peel Regional Council,

On behalf of Embrace Agency to End Violence, please accept this letter in support of opening a **Supervised Consumption Site in the Region of Peel**. Supervised Consumption Sites are an effective component of public health strategy which support towards drastically reducing the rates of substance use related morbidity, mortality and overdose in the community.

Peel Public Health and Moyo Health and Community Services are putting forth a recommendation to open a **Safe Consumption Site in the Regional of Peel** to address the 133% rise in opioid-related deaths in the Peel Region over the last four years. More than half of fatal overdoses in the region have occurred when no one was present to intervene and provide support through the administration of Naloxone or contacting emergency support services. For every fatal overdose, there are at least 20-30 non-fatal overdoses which lead to significant health impacts for individuals and create greater strain on the healthcare system overtime. Societal stigma held towards individuals who use substances, and the criminalization of substance use leads many people to use alone – increasing the chance of fatal overdose. These statistics communicate the imminent need for SCS in the Region of Peel.

As an organization, Embrace is committed to working from a Harm Reduction framework and championing Harm Reduction policy in the Region of Peel through the implementation of non-judgmental and non-stigmatizing supports that center the unique needs and experiences of our community members who engage in substance use. We strongly believe that harm reduction policy is an effective way to enhance and promote individual and community safety, wellness and agency.

Safe Consumption sites are a necessary and effective component of a strong harm reduction informed public health strategy, which is why Embrace strongly supports policy which will implement SCS in consultation with people who use substances, the general community and other service providers in the Region of Peel.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and urge you to support this important policy initiative. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards ,



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