

June 24, 2022

RECEIVED

June 24, 2022

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

Peel Regional Council

10 Peel Centre Drive

Brampton, ON

L6T 4B9

REFERRAL TO _____

RECOMMENDED

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

To Whom It May Concern;

Our Place Peel stands in solidarity with Peel Regional Public Health and MOYO's mission to have a supervised consumption site. Our Place Peel sees the importance of having a safer consumption site supervised by trained medical professionals as a necessity in the Region of Peel. As a harm reduction approach to substance use, it's imperative that substance users have a safe and hygienic place to consume.

Within the Region of Peel, it has been reported that opioid related deaths have increased 133% between the years 2017 to 2021 with the loss of 651 lives during that time span. Safer consumption sites could be the answer to slowing down the rates of death due to substance use in the region; a prevention strategy that takes on proactive stance. In 2018, 68% of opioid related deaths in the Region of Peel were persons who were alone at the time of death. Due to stigmatization, isolation (especially during the pandemic) and fear of penalization, substance users resort to using alone which can lead to overdose.

Having access to safer consumption site is a public health approach to reducing the number of persons using in unsafe environments with unsafe tools. The ripple effect of having this also means that there would be less paraphernalia discharged in public spaces upholding public safety. Research has also shown that supervision by medical professionals reduces the likeliness of overdoses, saving lives while putting less strain on emergency medical services. Not only does safer consumption sites lessens the chances of spreading blood borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, it also provides people with an opportunity to connect and have access to resources within the region by linking them to professionals that can address their needs.

It's essential that we recognize the impact substance use has on the lives of those who use, their families and their neighborhoods. Person's using should be free of stigma and discrimination while having access to a safe place to use. Our Place Peel supports the initiative to have a safer consumption site within the Region of Peel as it is a necessity to ensure safety among those who use substances.

Sincerely,

Our Place Peel