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REGION OF PEEL
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June 20, 2022

## To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is in support of the Peel Integrated Drug Strategy and the Supervised Consumption Site for Peel region. The John Howard Society of Peel-Halton-Dufferin serves individuals living in Peel region, many of whom are experiencing mental health and addiction challenges. Our services are centred around three pillars: prevention, intervention and reintegration. The John Howard Society Peel-Halton-Dufferin has been a member of the Peel Integrated Strategy for a few years and the need for a supervised consumption site has been discussed, surveyed, and concluded that there is a high need for the supervised consumption site in Peel region.

Research has shown that many cities near Peel have supervised consumption sites, including Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph, and Kitchener. Establishing harm reduction services, such as supervision of drug consumption to allow for early intervention in an overdose, can help reduce overdose deaths, the incidence of blood-borne infections, and help to address the health inequities that some of our most marginalized community members experience. Further, the supervised consumption sites can reduce strain on emergency medical services and provide space for people to connect with staff and peers, which can help a person moderate their substance use and decide to pursue treatment.

A supervised consumption site would serve as prevention and intervention for those experiencing addiction in our region.

For further information regarding our support of this initiative please contact me at cwiggan@johnhowardphd.ca.

Sincerely,

Catherine Wiggan

Manager Community Services