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# STATEMENT FROM ACT ON THE CLOSURE OF MULTIPLE SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SERVICES SITES IN ONTARIO

AUGUST 2024

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On August 20, 2024, Health Minister Sylvia Jones announced that all SCS sites within 200 metres of a school or childcare centre will close. This will result in five such services closing in Toronto, leaving a significant gap downtown, where the need for such services is high.

The City of Toronto reported 523 opioid toxicity deaths in 2023. Closing these services will result in preventable deaths as well as new HIV infections.

Supervised Consumption Services benefit the communities around them by preserving life, providing education and sterile gear, which prevents HIV and other infections, connecting people to treatment, and reducing the amount of gear found in public spaces, among other benefits.

Supervised Consumption Services are important community infrastructure; they support both the physical and mental health of many people in our communities who are among the city's most marginalized residents.

ACT joins other organizations and experts in the field and strongly opposes the closure of these services, urging the government to reverse this decision and instead heed the advice of the many academics, service providers, and service users who have provided countless testimonies on how best to support communities with mental health and addiction-related issues.

## SOURCES:

AMHO-Submission-to-MOHLTC-Overview-of-the-Effectiveness-of-Supervised-Consumption-Services: <https://ohrn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AMHO-Submission-to-MOHLTC-Overview-of-the-Effectiveness-of-Supervised-Consumption-Services.pdf>

CATIE calls for a hold on closing Ontario supervised consumption sites: <https://www.catie.ca/catie-calls-for-a-hold-on-closing-ontario-supervised-consumption-sites>

Kensington Market Overdose Prevention Site (KMOPS): <https://tngcommunityto.org/Programs-Services/Programs/Drop-in-and-Harm-Reduction-Services/Kensington-Market-Overdose-Prevention-Site>

Supervised Consumption Services – City of Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/health-programs-advice/supervised-injection-services/>

Toronto reports 523 opioid overdose deaths in 2023 | CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-overdose-deaths-1.7218230>

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