

**PROPOSED CONSUMPTION AND TREATMENT SERVICE SITE
AT 220 SIMCOE STREET, PETERBOROUGH
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

October 2020

1. WHAT IS IT YOU ARE PROPOSING TO DO?

PARN-Your Community AIDS Resource Network and the Peterborough 360 Degree Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic are applying to operate a Consumption and Treatment Services Site (CTS) at 220 Simcoe Street. A CTS is a health facility where individuals can use pre-obtained illicit drugs in the presence of trained staff. The CTS will also offer drug testing, provide education about safer use, overdose prevention/intervention, wound care, new drug use equipment (and disposal), and connect individuals to services on site and in the community.

2. WHY PROVIDE A CTS?

Our public health unit area has the third highest rate of opioid overdoses and emergency room visits in the province. There have been 36 suspected overdose deaths in the first 9 months of 2020; there were 28 deaths in 2019.

Extensive research has demonstrated that the services offered within a CTS reduce overdose deaths, reduce behaviours that can cause HIV or Hep C infection (sharing of needles or other injection supplies), increase use of primary health care, social, and substance use treatment services, are cost-effective, reduce public use and discarded drug equipment, and do not contribute to more crime in the area near the service. In September 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized that facilities such as these decrease the risk of death and disease with no discernible negative impact on the public safety around the service and that the operation of these health services is in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

A [general consultation](#) about establishing a CTS in Peterborough was completed in November 2019 via an online survey (prior to proposing a specific location). 74% of the 1,621 respondents said they see benefit in having a CTS site in Peterborough. A separate consultation involving 122 people who use drugs found that 91% said they would use a CTS.

3. WHAT IS THE PROCESS/TIMELINE FOR THIS SERVICE?

Establishing a CTS requires an application to Health Canada for an exemption to Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and an application for funding from the provincial government. Our intention is to submit the federal exemption application and the provincial application by December 2020. Once approved, we will then need to undertake renovations to operate the CTS.

4. HOW WILL THE PUBLIC BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS?

Both the federal exemption and provincial funding applications require a community consultation process.

Public engagement activities began on November 1, 2019 with the launch of an online survey. The survey remained open until November 30 and received 1621 responses, with 1,331 (82%) of respondents residing in Peterborough City and County. A separate survey with People with Lived Experience of substance use (PWLE) process began in late- November and engaged 122 individuals. The report from these consultation activities is available [here](#).

Site-specific consultations are being hosted with downtown businesses, neighbours, the general public, and people who use drugs to more specifically inform CTS operations. We encourage Peterborough residents to read this FAQ document and [register to attend an on-line session](#) where they can ask questions and provide feedback.

If approved, a community advisory group including local service agencies, residents, and business owners will be established. This group will meet regularly and respond to any arising concerns.

5. HOW WILL A CTS WORK HERE? WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

PARN will have responsibility for the daily operation of the site. PARN has long-standing partnerships in place and a demonstrated track record for responsive service delivery. As an agency they have well established, positive relationships with members of the community who are using substances, a key factor in ensuring services are accessible to those who need them.

The proposed operating hours for the CTS are between 9:30am and 9pm, 7 days per week. The CTS will be staffed by a minimum of 3 staff with a nurse from the 360NPLC or paramedic from Peterborough County-City Paramedics on site at all times. Security staff will monitor the outside of the building for any concerning behaviour and to collect any litter.

This [floorplan](#) provides 3 main areas for the core services of a CTS: assessment, consumption, and post consumption, as well as spaces for other service delivery such as connection to addiction and mental health treatment, distribution of new drug use equipment and Naloxone, wound care and other health care. Guests would also be able to use the onsite washroom facilities as needed.

Guests will be greeted at the glassed in entrance ('vestibule') on the North side of the building. Those wishing to use the CTS will proceed to the left where they will be assessed for their health, needs, and risk of overdose. Assessments will also provide an opportunity to engage CTS participants in harm reduction teaching, primary health care and substance use treatment services. Workers will offer a test strip to the guest for them to test their drugs for any fentanyl, the drug known to be causing the majority of overdoses. Individuals will secure their belongings

in a locker, receive sterile drug use equipment, and safer drug use counselling and information. Then they will be directed to the consumption area.

The consumption area will have 3 booths. Each use will take approximately 20 minutes, including the cleaning and disinfection of the booth.

A post-consumption area will be provided with coffee and snacks to encourage individuals to stay for 15 minutes so they can be monitored further.

Staff from Fourcast and the Canadian Mental Health Agency will be on site part time to connect individuals to addictions and mental health supports available locally and across the province. A nurse from the 360NP-Led Clinic will be on-site part time to connect individuals to primary health care whenever possible. CTS staff will support access to other services very nearby: the City's Social Services department, the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine clinic, Methadone clinics, the Salvation Army's breakfast program, the Good Neighbour's food bank, shelters, the Community Counselling and Resource Centre, etc.

6. WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT 220 SIMCOE STREET?

Already operating on the West side of the building is PARN's Harm Reduction program. Anyone can collect new drug-use equipment and guidance on how to use drugs more safely, including receiving overdose prevention training and a kit with Naloxone. Used supplies can be brought back here to be safely discarded.

The building is also used by the newly formed Mobile Strategic Overdose Response Team. This team of a community paramedic, two intensive case managers from the Four Counties Addiction Services Team, and peer workers connect quickly with anyone who has overdosed in Peterborough City & County and has opted to not go to the hospital.

7. WILL THE POLICE TARGET CTS USERS?

Police are there to protect the public and preserve life; this includes people who inject drugs. Under the law, people can bring their own supply and safely inject under medical supervision. As core partners of the Peterborough Drug Strategy, Peterborough Police will not interfere with the operations of the CTS and understand the need for a continuum of response to substance use. Peterborough Police will work with CTS staff and management around any concerns that they or the public may have.

8. WON'T THIS ENCOURAGE DRUG USE?

There is no evidence that safe consumption sites or other harm reduction services promote or increase drug use or contribute to more crime in neighbourhoods where they are located. In fact, most studies find that occurrences of things like thefts, vehicle break ins, discarded needles and drug use in public spaces decrease after safe consumption facilities are established.

9. HOW WILL THE CTS BE EVALUATED?

Monthly reporting will be a requirement to the province for CTS sites including:

- Number of visits and number of unique clients
- Number of overdose interventions and number and type of method of reversal and outcome
- Paramedic service calls and outcomes
- Provision of harm reduction and health education
- Provision of needle syringe program, needle disposal and litter data
- Provision of wrap-around services and treatment uptake onsite including treatment, mental health, and primary care
- Number of client referrals to treatment, housing, mental health and other social services
- Initiation to the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine Clinic
- Data on safety and security including incidents at and immediately surrounding the site and the number of times police are called
- Visit data (timing, mode and type of consumption, etc.) and client demographics; and
- Description of community engagement and liaison efforts

Federally, all operating Supervised Consumption Service locations are required to submit performance indicators on an ongoing basis. The federal indicators are:

- The average number of visits per day;
- The number of unique visitors per month;
- The general demographics of the clients served;
- The number of referrals to other health care facilities including treatment and rehabilitation services;
- The number of referrals to other health and social services;
- The number of overdoses/drug emergencies at the site per year; and
- The percentage of the most prevalent drugs used at the site according to the user.