



April 1, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Statement of Concern: Closure of Supervised Consumption Sites across Ontario

On behalf of [Canadian Association for Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care \(CANAC\)](#) we express our profound disappointment and deep concern regarding the decision to close supervised consumption sites across Ontario.

As nurses working on the frontlines of HIV care, harm reduction, and community health, we know that supervised consumption services are not optional—they are essential, evidence-based interventions that save lives¹. These services provide sterile equipment, immediate overdose response, and critical pathways to care, including HIV and hepatitis C testing, treatment, and prevention².

Between 2017 and 2024, supervised consumption sites in Canada responded to over 60,000 overdose events with zero reported onsite deaths³. Unfortunately, early data following service disruptions show alarming consequences: reports indicate significant increases in overdoses - up to 179% in some community settings - after site closures².

The closure of supervised consumption sites will not eliminate substance use. Instead, it will displace it, into public spaces and into isolation. People will use alone, without access to naloxone or immediate medical intervention, dramatically increasing the risk of fatal overdose.

¹ Tucker, L., Ibanez-Carasco, F., Legault, B., Cameron, D., Michaud, J., Seguin, G., Groot, E., Jayathilake, A., Pelland, K., Fritz, A., Eisenhauer, H., & Bardwell, G. (2025). Necropolitics of the North: A rapid ethnography examining the effects of the closure of one of Northern Ontario's only supervised consumption sites. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 143 (2025), Article 104869.

² Rapid Response Service. The impact of supervised drug consumption services (SCS). Toronto, ON: The Ontario HIV Treatment Network; January 2024.

³ Gariépy, G., Prowse, R.K.M., Plouffe, R., & Graham, E. (2025). Supervised consumption sites and population level overdose mortality: A systematic review of recent evidence, 2016–2024. *Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention in Canada*, 45(9):357-66.



We also emphasize a critical and often overlooked consequence that the closure of supervised consumption services will increase the risk of HIV and other blood-borne infections. SCS' reduce syringe sharing, provide sterile equipment, and connect individuals to testing and treatment. Their removal will lead to increased unsafe injection practices, reduced access to prevention services, and ultimately higher rates of HIV transmission.

This decision will result in:

- Increased preventable overdose deaths
- Increased HIV and hepatitis C transmission
- Greater strain on emergency departments and acute care systems
- Increased public drug use and community impact
- Reduced access to lifesaving, evidence-based care

We stand in solidarity with our colleagues at the [Harm Reduction Nurses Association](#) and with all healthcare providers, community organizations, and people with lived and living experience who continue to advocate for compassionate, evidence-informed approaches to substance use.

Harm reduction is healthcare. It is grounded in dignity, human rights, and decades of evidence. Policies that restrict access to these services disproportionately impact people who are already marginalized and will worsen health inequities across Ontario¹.

Call to Action:

We urge the Government of Ontario to:

- Immediately reconsider and halt the closure of supervised consumption sites
- Engage meaningfully with healthcare professionals, public health experts, and people with lived and living experience
- Commit to evidence-informed policies that prioritize health, safety, and dignity

We also encourage healthcare providers, organizations, and members of the public to take action by supporting advocacy efforts—[such as those led by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario](#)—and adding their voices to calls for the protection and expansion of harm reduction services.

Sincerely,

The Canadian Association for Nurses in HIV/AIDS Care (CANAC)