



Effie J. Triantafilopoulos
Unit 570
2525 Old Bronte Rd.
Oakville, ON L6M 4J2

October 7, 2024

Dear Effie,

CFUW Burlington is very concerned about the provincial government's announcement of the closure of supervised consumption sites and the restrictions on needle and syringe programs, programs that are promoted by the WHO to decrease drug related harms.

We support the proposed expansion of substance use treatment programs but are aware that this takes time to implement and is a very complex matter. Many patients are not ready to access long-term treatment.

Evidence-based scientific research shows that, on the whole, supervised consumption sites save lives, do not increase crime in the surrounding area and decrease the number of neighbourhood drug overdoses. They also save the health care system hundreds of thousands of dollars in acute hospital admissions and readmissions, paramedic services, emergency visits, surgeries, not to mention the economic and personal costs of foregone productivity and lost lives.

Restrictions on needle and syringe programs will result in increased transmission of viral and bacterial infections and also cost the health care system a fortune.

The vulnerable human beings of Ontario deserve the best possible care recommended by health care professionals, which includes safe drugs and compassionate treatment.

Human lives need to be prioritized over politics and the appropriate resources directed to this goal.

ALL LIVES MATTER!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Ruth Levkoe
President CFUW Burlington