



October 7, 2024

Natalie Pierre MPP
306-3027 Harvester Road
Burlington, ON L7N 3G7

Dear Ms. Pierre,

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.

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 thousands of dollars in acute hospital admissions and readmissions, paramedic services, emergency visits, surgeries and lost lives.

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

Not only is the World Health Organization (WHO) in favour of these programs, our own Canadian government states that supervised consumption sites may save lives.

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.

Sincerely,

Ruth Levkoe
President, CFUW Burlington