

SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE - STEP 1

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WHEREAS the City of Sault Ste. Marie continues to suffer higher than average overdose and fatality rates from the opioid addictions epidemic that is severely challenging our community; and

WHEREAS the rates of emergency room visits and deaths in Sault Ste. Marie related to opioid use and abuse are significant higher compared to the provincial average. In 2021, the emergency room visit rate was 138 per 100,000 people locally compared to the provincial average of 86 per 100,000 people, and the death rate was 64 per 100,000 locally compared to 21 per 100,000 people provincially; and

WHEREAS studies have shown that supervised consumption sites can offer benefits to addicts, which include:

- attracting high-risk, marginalized users
- management of overdose and decreased mortality
- enhancement of safe injecting practices
- decreased public drug use and improved public amenity
- increased uptake of treatment and other healthcare and social services
- prevention of transmission of blood-borne diseases and the associated economic benefits from it; and

WHEREAS there has been no evidence linking existing supervised consumption sites to either an:

- increase in crime, or
- increase in drug use or related risks; AND

WHEREAS Sudbury and Timmins have developed supervised consumption sites and the services that are available to addicts in other northern Ontario communities should be available in our community; and

WHEREAS there is a process to follow to develop a supervised consumption site, which includes municipal approvals, provincial approvals and federal approvals;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Staff review the process for the establishment of a supervised consumption site, including what applications need to be completed, the steps municipalities must take, if any, before those applications are completed, whether the municipality should spearhead the efforts to develop a supervised consumption site or whether such efforts should be undertaken by community partners, and the next steps required by the Council of the City of Sault Ste. Marie to advance the desire of the Sault Council to have a supervised consumption site operate within our community.