



INSITE: A SUCCESS STORY

Opened in Vancouver in 2003, Insite is Canada's first supervised consumption site. It has succeeded in benefiting the health and safety of the community in many ways:

- 35 HIV infections are prevented each year, saving \$8.7 million in health care costs.
- Fatal overdoses in the vicinity of Insite have decreased by 35%. Not a single person has died of overdose at Insite.
- Insite users are 30% more likely to seek addiction treatment. 458 people entered detox through Insite in 2010.
- Insite has not lead to an increase in drug use or crime in the area.

“Research confirms that Insite connects people to treatment services, counselling, and medical help, at the same time as it reduces crime. The science in favour of Insite is clear, and as long as we have people suffering from addiction on our streets we need harm reduction options in place.”

– Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver

CSCS OTTAWA | CAMPAIGN FOR SAFER CONSUMPTION SITES IN OTTAWA

WHO WE ARE

CSCS is a group of community members who advocate for the opening of safer consumption sites in Ottawa for people who use drugs.

We believe that the most effective response to problematic drug use includes:

- harm reduction
- expanded social and health care services
- preventative measures to address communicable diseases
- evidence-based drug policies

GET INVOLVED

Visit our website at cscsottawa.ca to learn more and subscribe to our mailing list.

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SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES IN OTTAWA

Saving lives
and getting drug use
off the street

CSCS
OTTAWA

CAMPAIGN FOR
SAFER CONSUMPTION
SITES IN OTTAWA



A HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR STREETS

There’s a growing epidemic in our city. The rate of HIV and hepatitis C among people who use drugs in Ottawa is one of the highest in Canada.

1 in 10 injection drug users are infected with HIV.

6 in 10 have contracted hepatitis C.

Every day, thousands more are at risk of becoming infected with one of these potentially lethal illnesses.

At least 36 people died from drug overdose in Ottawa last year – deaths that could have been prevented.

We must respond to this urgent health crisis.



THERE’S A PROVEN SOLUTION

Supervised consumption sites are public health facilities that offer a safe and clean environment where people can use their own drugs under the supervision of trained medical staff.

Opening these sites in Ottawa would:

- reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis C by providing sterile drug equipment and safe disposal of used needles and pipes
- prevent deaths caused by overdose
- decrease drug use in public and reduce drug equipment litter
- provide access to health and social services, such as first aid treatment and referral to addiction recovery programs

PREVENTION SAVES LIVES AND MONEY

The health care costs of treating an HIV infection are around \$250,000. Preventing the spread of infections leads to a healthier community – and makes fiscal sense.

| Projected cost-effectiveness of a supervised consumption site in Ottawa | |
|---|----------------------|
| HIV infections averted | 10 per year |
| Health care savings from HIV infections averted | \$2.5 million |
| Hep C infections averted | 35 per year |
| Health care savings from hep C infections averted | \$770,000 |
| Supervised consumption site annual costs | \$1.5 million |
| Total health care savings from averted infections | \$3.2 million |



A CLEANER, SAFER CITY

Last year, over 6,300 needles and 1,200 crack pipes were recovered from city streets and parks, and reports of public drug use in the ByWard Market increased tenfold.

3 out of 4 drug users in Ottawa say that they would use supervised consumption sites. Getting drug use off the street means a cleaner, safer city for everyone.

PROVIDING HELP WHEN IT’S NEEDED

Supervised consumption sites would connect people who use drugs with health services that may not otherwise reach them.

Clinical staff would provide first aid care, alleviating medical risks. Overdoses would be treated immediately, saving lives.

Counsellors would be on-hand to discuss addiction treatment options and refer clients to mental health resources.

“The time is now to treat addiction as a health issue, and give hope to some of the most vulnerable people in our city.”

– Dr. Mark Tyndall, Head of Infectious Diseases at the Ottawa Hospital