



## **What you should know about the Guelph Community Health Centre's (CHC's) Application to Become a Consumption & Treatment Service (CTS)**

### **What is a CTS?**

- A CTS is a health service where community members who use drugs receive wraparound treatment and support. It is a low barrier, life-saving service that helps us respond to the current opioid and overdose crisis facing our community – and our province.
- A CTS includes a safe, hygienic place for people to consume pre-obtained drugs (injection, intranasal and oral) under the supervision of trained health professionals. Visitors to the service are provided sterile injection supplies, education on safe consumption, overdose prevention and intervention.
- They also have opportunities to access other supports to help them with the challenges that they may be facing, including addiction treatment services, primary health care, mental health supports, housing and connections to other social services.
- The Guelph CHC opened temporary overdose prevention services in May 2018, and our application to become a CTS is part of our effort to continue providing these life-saving services in our city.

### **Why does Guelph need a CTS?**

- Community partners are working together on a multi-pronged approach to help us respond to the crisis we are facing, with a CTS being just one part of the solution.
- The current overdose crisis in Ontario is far-reaching, and Guelph is not immune. At the Guelph CHC, we see this need every day.
- We are seeing substantially higher rates of ER visits and hospitalizations for opioid poisoning in Guelph compared to provincial averages, and death rates in our community are surging.
- Syringe distribution has nearly tripled in the City of Guelph in six years, having nearly doubled in the last two years alone.
- Since beginning to offer overdose prevention services at the Guelph CHC in May we are seeing an average of 15 people each day, and our trained staff have reversed over 20 overdoses.

### **What will Guelph's CTS be like?**

- Like our current overdose prevention site, the CTS will offer needle exchange services, supervised injection, and access to naloxone.
- The space where the program is housed includes two injection booths where medical and site staff provide immediate medical assessment and ongoing monitoring to ensure safety of individuals using the service.
- There is also a space for quiet activities, extending the length of supervision by trained staff.
- Staff at the CTS will also provide medical assessment and treatment such as immunizations, testing, wound and foot care, and assist in making connections

to addiction treatment, primary care, mental health, housing and other social services.

- The CTS is a complement to resources that are already offered by the Guelph Community Health Centre.

### **What are the benefits of a CTS?**

- International and Canadian research shows that there are individual and community benefits of a CTS, including:
  - Reducing the number of drug overdoses, and saving lives
  - Reducing the risk factors such as HIV and hepatitis
  - Increasing the use of detox and drug treatment services
  - Connecting people with other health and social services
  - Reducing the public drug use and the amount of publicly discarded needles
  - Reducing the cost of health care services

### **What does success look like for Guelph's CTS?**

- Guelph's CTS is an integrated response to an emergency health crisis in our community.
- Guelph has an opportunity to prevent the increasing overdose mortality rates that we are seeing at the provincial level – and the CTS will help us do that.
- We expect to continue to see less drug use downtown, fewer syringes in public spaces, and to provide dignity and safety to our community.
- When people have access to the health and social supports they need, they have a better opportunity to live healthy lives and to contribute positively to our community.

### **What can I do?**

- Join the conversation and have your say. Respond to our [survey](#) to share your thoughts on the continuation of overdose prevention services in our community.
- Send people in need of support to the Guelph CHC, a safe and welcoming space.
- Familiarize yourself with the Guelph CHC and the CTS by meeting with our staff and arranging a tour of our facility.
- Report syringes that have been discarded in public spaces to ARCH for safe collection and disposal by calling 519-240-4098 or 1-800-282-4505.



This program is delivered in partnership with the Guelph Family Health Team and HIV/AIDS Resources and Community Health (ARCH)