

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 27, 2024



## **City of Kitchener Motion Requests Province NOT Defund Region's Only Consumption and Treatment Services Site**

A motion requesting the Province cease defunding the only Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) site in Waterloo region will be considered by Kitchener Councillors on **Monday, September 30, at 7pm**. This follows a [similar motion](#) passed recently by the Region of Waterloo's Council. It is our understanding Kitchener's Downtown Action Advisory Committee is unanimously supportive. Many delegations in support of the motion are expected.

The motion can be found [here](#).

**The WR DAT will be delegating to Council in support of the motion, and encouraging the Region of Waterloo to fund the establishment of an alternate consumption service via Health Canada's Urgent Public Health Needs Site (UPHNS) option.** Other Ontario municipalities have, or are, funding UPHNS services. We appreciate the constant budgetary pressures facing municipalities in the face of a hostile provincial government, however, the negative impacts are so extreme and the alternatives so limited, there is no choice.

The CTS closure, and the absence of a funded alternative, will result in deaths, injuries and other harms immediately. The additional burden on emergency services, non-profit staff, and health systems is universally unwelcome, and unnecessarily more expensive. The safety and well-being of the neighbourhood near the CTS is at-risk. The daycare across the street is concerned about the CTS closure. Residents grieving the loss of friends and/or family are supportive. Provincial claims about CTS-induced crime surges are unsupported by police data.

***"The WR DAT supports evidence-based policy making, and rejects the radical, fact-free, opinion-based drug policies of Ontario's P.C. government implicated in more than 21,000 overdose deaths since their election in 2018. Defunding a life-saving service with proven results during a raging public health emergency benefits no one. The WR DAT implores local P.C. MPPs and the Ontario government to respect the wisdom of their constituents and local municipalities, supported by a bounty of evidence, and immediately reverse their life-threatening decision."***

The WR DAT note the province's own CTS "review" reports did not recommend defunding CTS sites. We note the recommendations of sustaining if not expanding consumption services, from **Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health** to the **Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police** to the **Registered Nurses Association of Ontario** to the **Ontario Medical Association** and many, many more entities, over many years.

The Province's HART hubs are, unequivocally, no substitute for a consumption service. The people of this region deserve both, and more relief than is currently offered by the province.

The WR DAT are local volunteers with significant drug-related expertise and experience, guided by evidence and the wisdom of community. The WR DAT receives no government funding. Information about the WR DAT is available at: [www.drugactionteam.ca](http://www.drugactionteam.ca)

**For more information please contact: [wrdrugactionteam@gmail.com](mailto:wrdrugactionteam@gmail.com)**