

URGENT

Waterloo Region Drug Action Team,
Kitchener, Ontario
wrdrugactionteam@gmail.com



Re: Consumption and Treatment Services Injunction

March 30, 2025

Chair Redman, Members of Regional Council

As you know, there has never been any visible support for eliminating Waterloo region's only Consumption and Treatment Service (CTS) located in Kitchener - not from Region of Waterloo Council, not from Kitchener City Council, not from the Kitchener Downtown Advisory Committee, not from the daycare across the street, not from members of area schools and churches, faith leaders, health, social work, and outreach professionals, downtown business owners, and certainly not from CTS clients, among so many others.

As you know, the Ontario Superior Court issued an injunction on S.2 of the *Community Care and Recovery Act* on Friday. The injunction allows for the CTS to remain open for 30 days past a judgement on the Charter issues.

As you know the Province of Ontario has indicated it will not support the court injunction granting a suspension of CTS closures in Kitchener, Guelph, and elsewhere.

Many local affidavits were submitted to Ontario Superior Court, and none were in support of closing the CTS site. The Waterloo Region Drug Action Team obtained intervenor status as part of a coalition.

One of the applicants in the court challenge is a resident of Waterloo region. The court has accepted the high risk of death and injury to CTS clients should CTS sites close, including the risk of death to the Waterloo region applicant. We do not want your constituent, or other CTS clients, to die.

As you may know, S.3 of the Act prohibits municipal support for consumption services without the approval of the Ontario Minister of Health.

Because the injunction calls for maintaining CTS operations, and because the affected CTS sites are due to close on April 1, the Waterloo region community would like to know: have you, or will you, request the Ontario Minister of Health to provide a) immediate provincial support to comply with the injunction and ensure the Kitchener applicant and the lives of other area constituents are not threatened during the injunction period and b) request provincial approval for permission to allow the Regional Municipality of Waterloo to support the continued operation of our only consumption service should the Province decline to respect the spirit and intent of the injunction by providing support directly?

The WR DAT is fully aware of the local nuances faced by the CTS, however, assuring continuance is hardly impossible. The life of the applicant, and the lives of constituents locally hang in the balance. Time is of the essence, obviously, and the community would appreciate your support in an emergency response.

On behalf of the Waterloo Region Drug Action Team, we look forward to your reply and more importantly, continuation of consumption services during if not beyond the injunction period.

Sincerely,

Waterloo Region Drug Action Team
- *unfunded - volunteer - non-partisan - honest*
www.drugactionteam.ca

Cc: Jess Dixon, MPP
Hon. Mike Harris Jr., MPP
Brian Riddell, MPP
Aislinn Clancy, MPP
Catherine Fife, MPP