September 27, 2019

The Honorable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

On September 19, 2019, the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health passed the following Resolution regarding the Completion of Consumption and Treatment Services Application and Site Location to address rising rates of opioid use in Windsor and Essex County.

PROPOSED MOTION
Whereas the Government of Ontario announced its funding commitment and endorsement of Consumption and Treatment Services in October 2018, and

Whereas Windsor and Essex County is experiencing significant public health concerns related to the use of opioids and other substance use, including illnesses, deaths, blood borne infections, and public discarding of used needles, and

Whereas Consumption and Treatment Services have the potential to address such public health issues, in addition to reducing health care costs, and

Whereas the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit’s (WECHU) lead role in the Windsor-Essex Community Opioid Strategy and understanding of harm-reduction services in the community, creates an opportunity for the WECHU to lead the successful completion of a comprehensive and collaborative application for Consumption and Treatment Services in our community, and

Whereas the results of the WECHU-led Supervised Injection Services Community Consultations Report demonstrate support and openness among the general public, key stakeholders, and people who inject drugs for an SIS in WEC, and

Whereas the final submission of a CTS application as well as the application for an exemption to the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act requires community consultation and the selection of a proposed location in which to operate.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health supports the submission of a Consumption and Treatment Services Application for the City of Windsor to the Ministry of Health, including the submission of an Exemption for Medical Purposes under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act for Activities at a Supervised Consumption Site Application required by Health Canada, and

FURTHER THAT an additional comprehensive community consultation be conducted by the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to determine a suitable and accessible location for a CTS in the City of Windsor.
We would be pleased to discuss this resolution with you and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary McNamara
Chair, Board of Health

Theresa Marentette
Chief Executive Officer

C: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Chris Harold, Ministry of Health, Manager, Addiction and Substances Policy and Programs
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies – Loretta Ryan
Ontario Boards of Health
WECHU Board of Health
Corporation of the City of Windsor – Clerk’s office
Corporation of the County of Essex – Clerk’s office
Local MPP’s – Percy Hatfield, Lisa Gretzky, Taras Natyshak, Rick Nicholls
Local MP’s – Brian Masse, Cheryl Hardcastle, Tracy Ramsey