



October 3, 2023

Key Messages

Talking points: “Save the Spot, Save Lives” - The Spot Supervised Consumption Site in Sudbury has lost its funding and by year end it will close. We need provincial funding to save the Spot or we will lose lives.

The Problem

1. The Spot Supervised Consumption Site is essential for Sudbury, reducing overdose deaths, reducing the transmission of diseases and infections, reducing risk and connecting individuals with essential social and healthcare services.
 - a. In 2023 we had almost 1,000 visits and reversed all 15 overdoses that happened on site, saving lives.
 - b. Drug checking services were utilized to identify potentially unwanted adulterants, like animal tranquilizer and benzodiazepines that were used dozens of times in 2023 alone, helping prevent the risk of overdose.
2. But municipal funding is ending and lack of provincial funding means we will have to close our doors by the end of the year unless action is taken.
 - a. Following 6 years of work and investment to get The Spot off the ground, the city of Sudbury has removed it's funding from next year's budget
 - b. The Province of Ontario has not responded or given any update to our funding application since it was submitted 2021.
 - c. If we don't act now, we will close by year-end if not sooner as staff are already leaving due to lack of job security.
3. This is more important than ever as Sudburians are dying from drug poisoning at a disproportionate rate.
 - a. Since 2018 there has been a 346% increase in opioid overdose deaths in Sudbury compared to 60% in Ontario
 - b. 112 Sudbury and Manitoulin residents died from an opioid-related overdose in 2022, that's an average of 9 people a month.ⁱ

Call To Action: We can't wait. We are calling on the province of Ontario to **immediately grant funding for The Spot. Too many lives have already been lost.**

The application has been with the Ministry of Addictions and Mental health since 2021 with no response, update, or action.

You can help. Visit www.savethespot.ca to sign our petition and share our story using #SaveTheSpot

ⁱ “Opioid Surveillance.” *Community Drug Strategy*, Public Health Sudbury & Districts, 12 Sept. 2023, www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/alcohol-drugs/community-drug-strategy/research/opioid-

surveillance/#~:text=population%20per%20year-
,In%202021%20(total)%3A,per%20100%2C000%20population%20per%20year.