

October 11, 2023

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Continued Provincial Funding for Sudbury's Supervised Consumption Site - Minoogawbi, La Place, The Spot

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to you on behalf of the Ontario CRISM (Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse) node, a research network to understand, address, and support evidence-based responses to substance misuse. We support methods such as Supervised Consumption Sites as one of the pillars to combat the tragic overdose epidemic affecting so many of our communities.

We are deeply concerned that Sudbury's Supervised Consumption Site, known as Minoogawbi, La Place, and called "The Spot," is facing potential closure unless provincial funding is approved. This site is more than just a facility – it represents hope, care, and life-saving support in a region that is desperately in need of such services.

Over two years have passed since an application for continued support was submitted to the Ministry. The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated, especially when we are amidst an overdose crisis. The statistics speak for themselves, but behind each number is a human life, a family, and a community that suffers.

Minoogawbi, La Place, The Spot stands as a beacon of hope, providing a safe and supportive environment for those who use substances; it not only combats the immediate threats of overdose but serves as a bridge to additional health and social services. Empirical evidence has clearly demonstrated the tangible benefits of Supervised Consumption Sites. Their value extends beyond immediate harm reduction; they also pave the way for holistic community healing, understanding, and inclusion. Denying support to "The Spot" is equivalent to turning away from one of the most effective solutions we have in our arsenal to fight this epidemic.

We ask you to act promptly. Delaying action signifies a potential loss of life, a grieving family, and a community further burdened by the weight of this crisis. Approving the necessary funding for Sudbury's Supervised Consumption Site is not just a matter of policy but a profound statement of compassion, understanding, and commitment to the well-being of the people of Ontario.

We urge you to recognize the undeniable value of Minoogawbi, La Place, The Spot and grant the necessary funding to keep it operational.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jürgen Rehm".

Jürgen Rehm, PhD
Senior Scientist, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
University of Toronto
NPI, Ontario CRISM Node

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fariyah Ali".

Fariyah Ali, PhD
Scientific Lead, Centre for Addiction & Mental Health
Institute of Mental Health Policy Research
Node Manager, Ontario CRISM Node