

### Ontario Opens Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub in Peterborough

PETERBOROUGH — The Ontario government is expanding access to high-quality mental health and addictions care with the launch of a new Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub in Peterborough. This is part of the province's more than \$560 million investment to open 29 HART Hubs across Ontario to protect the safety of families and communities while improving access to recovery and treatment services for people facing housing instability, mental health and substance use challenges.

"We are building a stronger, more connected system of mental health and addictions care that better reflects the needs of communities and focuses on lasting recovery," said Vijay Thanigasalam, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. "The opening of this new HART Hub will ensure that people struggling with mental health and addictions challenges in the Peterborough region can access support services that prioritizes their path to recovery and strengthen community safety."

HART Hubs connect people to a range of comprehensive treatment and recovery services such as primary care, mental health services, addictions care, social services and employment support.

The Peterborough HART Hub delivers services with the Four Counties Addictions Services Team (Fourcast) as lead agency, in partnership with local organizations, including the City of Peterborough Social Services, Canadian Mental Health Association – Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peterborough, Peterborough Community Health Centre (PCHC), Peterborough County-City Paramedics and Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC).

The Hub brings together a collaborative network of clinical, social service and care providers working to deliver services tailored to local needs, including:

- Mental health and addictions services
- Primary Care
- Case management for income supports, social services, employment services
- Supportive housing and supportive housing services
- Indigenous Services

Through Your Health: A Plan for Connected and Convenient Care and building on the Roadmap to Wellness, the province is taking action to connect individuals to integrated mental health and addictions services, where and when they need it.

The Peterborough HART Hub is located at 210 Wolfe Street.

In March 2025, the government announced plans to open 28 HART Hubs across the province. In April 2026, the government expanded the number of hubs by announcing a new Kingston location, bringing the total to 29 hubs, supported by an investment of more than \$560 million.

HART Hubs will also add close to 900 supportive housing units across the province. This is over 300 more than originally planned, helping people transition to stable, long-term housing.

With a focus on treatment and recovery, HART Hubs will not offer safer supply, supervised drug consumption or needle exchange programs.

From 2019-20 to 2025-26, Ontario has invested over \$1 billion through the Roadmap to Wellness to expand mental health and addictions services, helping to meet growing demand, to close gaps in mental health and addictions care and build a world-class system. This investment is helping create new services and expand programs across the province.

"For the first time in Ontario's history, we are taking a look at the entire continuum for homelessness, addictions, and recovery. The Hart Hub is a fantastic approach; it means that we are crossing different sectors to ensure that we are providing the services where they need it, when they need it, and at the appropriate level. People can enter at any stage into the Hub, wherever they are, and then progress through. It is the first time that any province has looked at the entire continuum for homelessness, addiction, and rehab."

- Dave Smith  
MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha

"The opening of the Peterborough HART Hub marks an important step forward in ensuring that our most vulnerable residents have access to the supports they need. The HART Hub brings together health care, mental health and addiction services, housing supports, and other community resources in one place, helping people access compassionate care closer to home."

- Laurie Scott  
MPP for Haliburton – Kawartha Lakes – Brock

"The provincial government's investment in HART Hub Peterborough provides local partners with the opportunity to expand resources and services for those experiencing homelessness in our community. Building on the core foundations of homelessness services in Peterborough, we will diversify our housing solutions to target specialized services for specialized needs. Our unique model puts a laser focus on long term housing stability for those with few housing options. We believe that housing is the solution for those in our community facing the intersecting crisis of addiction, mental health and homelessness."

- Donna Rogers  
Executive Director, Four Counties Addiction Services Team



## Karmageddon

By Mr. 'X' ~ John Mutton  
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

### Courage Is Standing Up for Equal Opportunity

There are moments in politics when it is easier to remain silent than to speak uncomfortable truths. Those who challenge the prevailing orthodoxy often find themselves criticized, attacked, or misrepresented. That is why I believe Jamil Jivani deserves recognition for raising questions that many Canadians have been reluctant to discuss openly.

Throughout his career, Jamil has consistently argued that every Canadian deserves to be judged on character, ability, effort, and merit—not on race, ancestry, or political ideology. Whether one agrees with every aspect of his argument or not, that principle has long been one of the cornerstones of a free and democratic society.

His recent campaign questioning federal hiring and diversity policies has generated significant national debate. Supporters view it as a call to restore merit-based decision-making and equal treatment under the law, while critics disagree with his characterization of existing policies. Regardless of where one stands, the discussion itself is an important one in a healthy democracy.

Having known Jamil personally, I can say he has never been motivated by hatred or division.

Quite the opposite. He believes Canadians of every background should have the same opportunity to succeed without governments creating winners and losers based upon immutable characteristics.

Canada has made tremendous progress because generations believed that opportunity should be available to everyone. The goal should never be to replace one form of discrimination with another. Our objective should be fairness for every Canadian.

Politics often rewards those who follow the crowd. Leadership requires something different. It requires the willingness to raise difficult questions, accept criticism, and continue the conversation respectfully.

Whether Canadians ultimately agree or disagree with Jamil's proposals, he has demonstrated a willingness to engage in debates that many politicians avoid. That courage deserves respect.

In the end, Canadians should strive toward a country where government treats every citizen equally, where opportunity is earned through hard work and talent, and where no one is advantaged or disadvantaged because of their race, religion, or ancestry. Those principles unite Canadians far more than they divide us.

**ADVERTISE WITH**  
**DURHAM'S #1 NEWSPAPER**

**THE Mr. X Files**  
**OFFICIAL T-SHIRTS!**

**Order Now!**  
[stickermule.com/backasore](http://stickermule.com/backasore)

**New Episodes Every Tuesday!**

**THE Mr. X Files**  
**With John Mutton**

**Subscribe on YouTube and Spotify**

**Scan with your phone to go directly to The Mr.X Files**