

Sudbury District Restorative Justice Justice Réparatrice du District de Sudbury



October 15, 2023

To: Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health Sylvia Jones and Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo:

I write to you as the Executive Director of Sudbury district Restorative Justice, an organization concerned about the health and welfare of some of our most vulnerable Sudburians.

According to our Public Health Sudbury District (www.phsd.ca) Opioid surveillance dashboard, from January 2021 to September 2023:

- The Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services have responded to 2,698 opioid related incidences;
- The Emergency department visits for confirmed opioid overdoses is 1,713;
- 302 residents have died from an opioid-related overdose;
- 103,134 doses of naloxone have been reported as being distributed.

When these statistics are distilled down to per 100,000 population for comparison to provincial averages, the Sudbury/Manitoulin District is **3 times the provincial average. We rank THIRD behind Thunder Bay and Algoma. NORTHERN ONTARIO IS IN A FULL-BLOWN OPIOID CRISIS.**

We are a community in crisis along with our other Northern communities. People are dying. Mothers, Fathers, Daughters, Sons, Sisters, Brothers, Friends, Colleagues, Students, Neighbours, our Community members.

Our Health care system, Public Health, Community Social Service providers, the City of Greater Sudbury are underfunded and under-resourced to adequately respond to this community crisis.

The Community Drug Strategy members have all recommended and advocated for funding of research proven strategy: a Supervised Consumption Site. Along with action on other agreed upon solutions by the community Drug Strategy, we applied 2 years ago for funding for the Supervised Consumption Site. We are still waiting for a Provincial Government response.....

The City of Greater Sudbury stepped up, and funded for one year, a Supervised Consumption Site. Our community couldn't wait any longer for the Provincial Government to ACT on behalf of its most vulnerable citizens.

Now that funding has run out.

WE NEED OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO ACT WITH FUNDING TO SUPPORT OUR SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE. NOW.

The Government, and specifically the Ministry of Health department of Mental Health and Addictions, needs to look to ONTARIO NORTH and hear our pleas for help. We are part of Ontario too!!

A safe place to resolve the effects of crime and conflict
238 Elm Street Suite 203, Sudbury ON P3C 1V3
www.sdrj.ca • info@sdrj.ca • 705-674-1825

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Please hear our cries for help.

Please save our supervised consumption site with adequate funding.

Please adequately fund Health Services in the North.

Please adequately fund Community Social Services in the NORTH.

Please.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Balleny', written in a cursive style.

Ms. Jackie Balleny, Executive Director
Sudbury District Restorative Justice.