



ST. ANDREW'S  
UNITED CHURCH

111 Larch Street | Sudbury, ON P3E 4T5 Canada | 705-674-0721 | [www.st-andrews.ca/church](http://www.st-andrews.ca/church)

Hon. Sylvia Jones,  
Minister of Health, Government of Ontario  
[sylvia.jones@ontario.ca](mailto:sylvia.jones@ontario.ca)

Hon. Michael A. Tibollo  
Assoc. Minister of Mental Health and Addictions,  
Gov. of Ontario [Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org](mailto:Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org)

CC: France Gélinas (Health Critic, Opposition Party) [Fgelinas-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:Fgelinas-co@ndp.on.ca)  
Jamie West (Member for Sudbury) [JWest-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JWest-QP@ndp.on.ca)

RE: Funding for Sudbury's Supervised Consumption Site (Minoogawbi, La Place, The Spot)

November 13, 2023

Dear Minister Jones,

On behalf of the Council of St. Andrew's United Church in downtown Sudbury, we wish to express our strong support for the work of Réseau ACCESS Network. They are an organization which supplies support to those who are living with HIV, and other blood borne diseases such as hepatitis, and people who use drugs. We offer this support out of a sense of admiration for the effectiveness of their work in bringing people back into the realm of high functioning adults.

Réseau ACCESS Network and the "Community Drug Strategy" members have done the enormous work of setting up Sudbury's Supervised Consumption Site (also known as Minoogawbi, La Place, and 'The Spot'), to mitigate the enormous fatality rate - since 2018 there has been a 346 per cent increase in opioid overdose deaths in Sudbury compared to 60 per cent in Ontario, 78 opioid-related deaths this year thus far! The Council of St. Andrew's United Church strongly advises you to renew your contract with Réseau ACCESS Network to continue the important work of the Supervised Consumption Site.

We must understand the work of the Réseau ACCESS Network in terms of their place in Sudbury, the pre-eminent center for northeastern Ontario. Seeing that there are already many vulnerable neighbours of this Church who have overdosed, some even dying, on our front doorstep, and acknowledging that addiction treatment does not work for all people with substance use disorder, we support any effort at medical support. We also see our central role in the presence of Indigenous folks from far northern communities. In this central role, Réseau ACCESS Network provides care for those who have come to Sudbury. St. Andrew's United Church in Sudbury asks that you ensure funding for "The Spot" beyond December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil C. Thurston  
Co-Chair of St. Andrew's United Church Council

Rev. Dave Le Grand  
Minister, St. Andrew's United Church