



**March 17, 2026**

## **An Urgent Call to Sustain CTS in Ottawa**

Belong Ottawa, a community ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, writes with a deep and urgent commitment to sustaining and expanding funding for Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) in Ottawa. We stand with our neighbours who rely on these vital services, and we oppose any closure or funding reduction that would jeopardize health, safety, and dignity for people experiencing homelessness, poverty, and substance-use challenges in our area.

CTS are more than a medical service; they are lifelines that protect the health and safety of Ottawa's most vulnerable through harm-reduction support, navigation of complex health systems, and connections to essential care. These services anchor outreach and relationship-building across our neighbourhoods, offering a stable, non-judgmental environment where people can access safer choices and a pathway toward stability. Without CTS, gaps in care will widen, harms will increase, and the strain on housing, emergency services, hospitals, and other community resources will intensify.

Belong Ottawa is committed to welcoming every person with dignity, regardless of health or housing status. We will continue to advocate for accessible, community-centered care that meets people where they are, including robust CTS and related supports. We will partner with the Diocese, local service providers, faith communities, and municipal partners to secure sustainable funding, develop innovative programming, and create models of care that protect the most vulnerable.

We urge funders, policymakers, and partners to reaffirm and protect funding for CTS at Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Ottawa Inner City Health, and other related harm-reduction, treatment, and support services. We encourage exploring additional or alternative funding streams that ensure continuity of care, including community-led initiatives, grants, and partnerships with faith communities and appropriate programs. It is essential to engage directly with people who use CTS, frontline workers, and community organizations to co-design resilient services that reflect real needs and local context. Any transition plan must be phased, transparent, and safe, safeguarding access to services throughout funding changes.

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We call upon you to stand with our neighbours by voicing support for CTS renewal and expansion to local decision-makers and funders, and advocate for policies that protect vulnerable residents by preventing service gaps during transitions. Consider volunteering, donating, or helping amplify messages about the essential nature of CTS and the right to health care, dignity, and safety for all. The urgency of this moment demands we remain a dependable, compassionate presence in Ottawa. By standing together—community ministries, civic organizations, health partners, and residents—we can ensure CTS remains accessible and effective for those who need it most.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can collaborate to protect and strengthen CTS in Ottawa.

With gratitude,

Shauna-marie Young  
Executive Director  
Belong Ottawa

The Reverend Victoria Scott  
Director General of Community Ministries  
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

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# CTS Letter of Support - Belong Ottawa - Public - 03.17.2026

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