



**Ottawa Inner
City Health**

Healthcare. Harm Reduction. Hope.

**Sandy Hill
Community
Health Centre**



**Centre de santé
communautaire
Côte-de-Sable**

Joint Statement by Ottawa Inner City Health and Sandy Hill Community Health Centre

Re: Ministry of Health has advised that funding for Consumption and Treatment Services in Ottawa is ending.

Ottawa Inner City Health and Sandy Hill Community Health Centre were advised late on Friday by the Ministry of Health that the Ministry is withdrawing funding for Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) at both Ottawa organizations within 90 days. This directive applies to all provincially funded CTS sites across Ontario.

This sudden decision is deeply concerning. Health care workers have been on the frontline of the toxic drug crisis and affordable housing crisis for years, providing care, creating connections, preventing overdoses, mitigating public safety issues, and saving thousands of lives in Ottawa. We are deeply concerned about what this decision signals for the people who rely on these services to keep themselves safe and connected, the people doing this critical work, and the communities in which they work.

In addition to increasing preventable overdose injury and death, the reality is that the loss of these services will place a greater strain on emergency and health services.

Over the coming weeks, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and Ottawa Inner City Health will be working with staff, local officials, community partners, and people who rely on these services to understand how to mitigate the harm this decision will cause.

We remain committed to continuing the lifesaving work our teams perform every day. We urge the Province to reverse this decision and to come to the table to collaborate on alternative models of care that are rooted in evidence and community need.

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