



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Ottawa
Mental health for all

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale
Ottawa
La santé mentale pour tous

CMHA Ottawa statement on the province's decision to end funding for CTS sites

Monday, March 16, 2026

At the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch (CMHA Ottawa), we are deeply disappointed by the province's decision to end funding for Ottawa's two supervised consumption and treatment services (CTS) sites, operated by Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and Ottawa Inner City Health in partnership with Shepherds of Good Hope, following 90-days' notice issued late Friday.

These sites play an essential, life-saving role in the lives of people who use drugs. Supervised consumption services reduce preventable overdose deaths, alleviate pressure on emergency and acute health services, and connect people with critical supports that make our communities healthier and safer, like those offered at CMHA Ottawa. We join our partners Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and Ottawa Inner City Health in expressing deep concern that the loss of provincial funding will increase preventable overdose injury and death among some of our city's most marginalized residents.

At CMHA Ottawa, we value CTS sites and the vital role they play in people's lives. These services save lives. They help people stay alive long enough to find housing, healthcare, and stability.

We encourage the provincial government to take a careful and comprehensive look at the evidence on the efficacy and effectiveness of CTS on people's lives and the health of our community. We also urge the government to work closely with community partners and people with lived experience as it considers its next steps.

We will continue to advocate for approaches that are client-centred, trauma-informed, and focused on harm reduction: approaches that protect dignity, safety, and wellbeing in our community.

Susan Farrell, PhD, CHE, CPsych, ICD.D
CEO
Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch