

September 27, 2024

YWCA Toronto Statement on Closure of Safe Injection Sites in Ontario

YWCA Toronto is deeply troubled by the provincial government's announcement of the closure of 10 drug consumption sites across Ontario, including five sites in the City of Toronto. Ontario is facing an escalating overdose crisis – thousands more people are dying every year in our province from the poisoned drug epidemic. This crisis is affecting our community members, including women and their families.

The drug toxicity crisis requires a multi-pronged response rooted in the recognition of our shared humanity. Drug consumption and needle exchange programs are a critical component of this humane approach. Safe consumption sites constitute essential healthcare services for our community members.

We urge the government to reconsider this decision. We are speaking up with our partners to sound the alarm and urge a better path forward. Please listen to the countless pleas of medical experts, mental health associations, and other frontline community organizations.

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