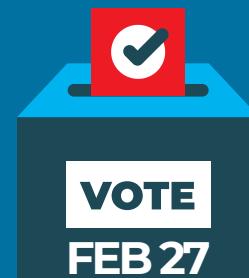


SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES



On February 27, cast your vote to prevent overdose deaths

Supervised consumption sites (SCS) provide support to individuals experiencing an overdose and have been proven to decrease fatalities. In 2024, the Province put restrictions on these sites, banning any within **200 metres of schools and daycares**. This means **10 of the 17 sites across Ontario will close, including 5 in Toronto**.

The decision to shut down SCS will have devastating impacts on individuals who rely on the lifesaving services they provide.

The upcoming provincial election is an opportunity for you to vote for a safer, healthier province.

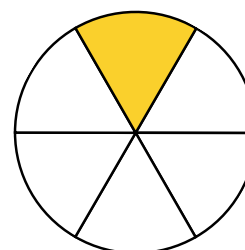
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



**increase in opioid
toxicity deaths**

Opioid use has dramatically increased in the past 4 years

Across Ontario, there was a **135% increase** in overdose deaths during the first 6 months of the pandemic in 2020. In the City of Toronto, there was a **74% increase in opioid toxicity deaths between 2019 and 2023 (from 302 to 528 deaths)**. The pandemic affected access to essential services including **addiction and mental health services and supports**. The reduction of hours and staff shortages in outreach programs and SCS meant people had limited access to lifesaving supports. Social distancing measures resulted in more individuals using substances alone.



**1 in 6
overdose-related
deaths are individuals
experiencing homelessness**

Individuals experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk

Individuals experiencing **homelessness** are disproportionately affected by **overdoses**, accounting for 1 in 6 overdose-related deaths in Ontario in 2021. Approximately **91% of service users** who frequent SCS are experiencing homelessness or are precariously housed, and **over a third** have been incarcerated in the past 6 months. The lack of stable, affordable housing leads to people using substances in unsafe environments, increasing the risk of overdoses.

Shutting down supervised consumption sites will cause harm

SCS across Ontario were visited over **1.1 million times** between March 2020 and March 2024. There is clear evidence that SCS are effective in reducing overdoses. An Auditor General Report found that between **2022 and 2023, SCS reversed over 1,500 overdoses** on site.

Ontario is in the midst of an overdose crisis, and people will continue to use substances. The shutdown of SCS will result in an increase in public drug use and fatal overdoses.

Supervised consumption sites help people access critical health and social services

Besides providing a safer space for individuals to use, SCS provide access and referrals to other social services. Research has shown that SCS visitors are **more likely to access treatment** and that these sites provide referrals to detox and treatment centers.

SCS also foster a sense of community, allowing visitors to connect with others, and provide users with opportunities to participate in various educational and peer training programs.



1,500
overdoses
reversed



1.1 million visits in 4 years



3 QUESTIONS FOR YOUR CANDIDATE

How do you plan to address the increasing rates of opioid related deaths in Ontario, including the increase expected as a result of the closures of the supervised consumption sites?

How do you plan to work with community organizations and public health experts to create solutions for the opioid crisis?

What alternative solutions do you plan to implement to address the overdose crisis and reduce the number of fatal overdoses?

For more information and resources and to learn about important issues in the provincial election, please visit:



socialplanningtoronto.org/2025_ontario_election

