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From:

Sent: May 31, 2019 12:13 PM

To: Wendy Cooke <Wendy.Cooke@barrie.ca>

Cc: Simon, Lisa <Lisa.Simon@smdhu.org>; Office of the Mayor <OfficeoftheMayor@barrie.ca

Subject: Letter to Council in Support of Council's motion to endorse Barrie SCS for June 3, 2019 agenda

URGENT: Letter of Support for SCS endorsement at Council Meeting on Monday June 3, 2019

Attention Barrie Mayor and all Council Members:

We represent many families in this area who have lost a loved one to opioid overdose, or have a loved one who is at high risk of overdose death.

Many people feel distanced from this unprecedented epidemic of deaths ... until it happens to someone they love.

We also are members of, and represent, the policy position of Moms Stop the Harm, a Canada-Wide advocacy group of over 800 families who have lost a loved one to overdose death, or have loved ones at risk. MTSH strongly supports SCS and SIS initiatives across Canada. Every life is worth saving. No family is exempt from this epidemic of opioid deaths.

We are writing to Barrie Council in support of the General Committee's motion to endorse the application to Health Canada and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for a Safe Consumption Site (SCS) in Barrie.

The proposal for an SCS in Barrie has been prepared by respected leaders and agencies in our community - SMOS, CMHA and Gilbert Centre. They have completed extensive consultations, have recommended an excellent location with many adjunct services, and they are working hand-in-hand with all Barrie services to help our most vulnerable population.

We urge all Barrie Council members to stand up and endorse this application. It is the right thing to do and this is the right time. We must not let fear-mongering colour ethical decisions. Every resident of Barrie deserves dignity, care and compassion.

Barrie has the second highest rate of opioid overdoses of large Ontario cities with populations over 100,000. Why is this the case?

Barrie was the first to support wide distribution of Naloxone to Emergency staff to prevent opioid overdose deaths. We encourage Barrie Council to also take a leadership role to providing a Safe Consumption Site to prevent overdose deaths and offer hope to those who are suffering from substance abuse problems in the downtown core.

The hope is that this will be a bridge to connection and ultimately a bridge to counselling and treatment. People who feel connected to their community and cared for are more likely to choose treatment.

Please vote to endorse this application for an SCS in Barrie. You will be saving lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn and David Pollock MD