Council Members in Attendance: Councillors Reid (Ward 1); Devine (Ward 2); Mann (Ward 3); Liggett (Ward 4); Wolf (Ward 5); Adshade (Ward 6); Hamilton (Ward 7); Ermeta (Ward 8) with Mayor McGarry in the chair.

Staff Members in Attendance: David Calder, City Manager; Dave Bush, Deputy City Manager – Corporate Services; Yogesh Shah, Deputy City Manager – Infrastructure Services; Hardy Bromberg, Deputy City Manager – Community Development; Cheryl Zahnleiter, Deputy City Manager – Corporate Enterprise; Lisa Shields, City Solicitor; Sheryl Ayres, Chief Financial Officer; Elaine Brunn Shaw, Chief Planner; Kathy Padgett, Senior Planner – Environment; James Goodram, Director of Economic Development; Paul Kan, Manager of Realty Services; Malcolm Duncan, Planner 1; Danielle Manton, City Clerk; Jennifer Shaw, Deputy City Clerk; Briar Allison, Council Committee Services Coordinator; Ayesh Lokumalage, Network Administrator.

Others in Attendance: Brenna MacKinnon, Region of Waterloo; Delis Lus, 140 Old Mill Road Limited Partnership; and members of the general public are participating via Live Stream.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge is held virtually via Microsoft Zoom and live streamed to the City of Cambridge website. Mayor McGarry welcomes everyone present and calls the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and the meeting adjourns at 11:40 p.m.

Indigenous Territory Acknowledgement

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

Presentations
1. Elaine Brunn Shaw, Chief Planner re: 21-106(CD) Minister’s Zoning Order – 0, 128, 134, 140, and 228 Old Mill Rd

See item #8

2. Kathy Padgett, Senior Planner - Environment re: 21-081(CD) ROP Review – Major Transit

See item #10

Delegations

1. Chris Pidgeon, GSP Group Inc. re: 21-106(CD) Minister’s Zoning Order – 0, 128, 134, 140, and 228 Old Mill Rd

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Chris Pidgeon is in attendance virtually to speak to item #8


Correspondence

1. Johanne Carbonneau re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

2. Patrick Sparrow re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

3. Toni Varga re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

4. Brett Goddard re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

5. Omar Kaake re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
6. Jimbo D re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
   Community Consultation and Site Identification

7. Mekcada A. Rodie re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
   Community Consultation and Site Identification

8. Robin Thomas re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
   Community Consultation and Site Identification

9. Kevin Nixon re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
   Community Consultation and Site Identification

10. Cinnamon Cantwell re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

11. Rachel Doiron re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

12. Hung Tran re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

13. Adam Braun re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

14. Nancy Arrojado re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

15. Theresa Dejmek re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

16. Darlene Baird re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

17. Linda Albright-Thiel re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

18. Eric Silveira re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

19. Natey Pranky re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification

20. Stevie Tribble re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
    Community Consultation and Site Identification
21. Kenneth Lin re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
22. Michael J. Mullen re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
23. Mary Law re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
24. L. Vernon re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
25. Rick Costello re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
26. Kristine Dearlove re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
27. Shane Murphy re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
28. Adrienne Crowder re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
29. Lynn Woeller re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
30. Jenn Boyd re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
31. Kathy Moreland re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
32. Darren Schlueter re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
33. Mary Ann Costa re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
34. Kevin Hiebert re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
35. Lily Hiebert Rempel re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
36. Medeiros Family re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

37. Joy re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

38. Stephanie De Wit re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

39. Crystal Harvey-Robertson re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

40. Tonya Hampton re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

41. Keith Rivers re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

42. Terry Polyak re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

43. Laura McKenna, Pamela Mangos and Joanne Malone re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

44. Ron and Barbara Rogers re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

45. Melissa Bowman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

46. Anne Lloyd Cook re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

47. Kayla Ramsbottom re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

48. Joanne Malone re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

49. Citizens for Cambridge re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

50. Kevin White re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
51. Jordan Thielman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

52. Carla Johnson re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

53. Stacey Bauer re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

54. Marieta Raszga re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

55. Joyce Chapman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

56. Lee Taggart re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification


58. HIP Developments re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

59. Nicole Moxey re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

60. Megan Bailey re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

61. Shalon Armstrong re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

62. Anita Stefanovic re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

63. Sharon Livingstone re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

64. Cheryl Opolko re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

65. Becky Verdun re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
66. Janet Simms-Baldwin re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
67. Joan re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
68. Christina Hughes re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
69. Michelle Goodridge re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
70. Sue Johnson re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
71. Mark Schuiling re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
72. Mrs. I. Vestenicky re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
73. Angela re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
74. Mary Foulger re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
75. Amar Bhuee re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
76. James Presseau and Donna Presseau re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
77. Ted Kewley re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
78. Jim Boni re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
79. Gary Staveley re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
80. Christine Carey re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
81. Byron Holmes re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

82. Kayleigh Cadenhead re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

83. Geoff Smith re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

84. The Gaspar family re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

85. Sarah Bird, Pinewood Heating & Air Conditioning re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

86. Tyler Laycock & Lisa Hilborn-Laycock, Hilborn Pottery Design re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

87. Jesse Burt re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

88. Brian Johnson re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

89. David C. Bennett re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

90. Carol Thorman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

91. Valerie Johnston re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

92. Craig Robertson re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

93. Angela Galley re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

94. Brandon Lee re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

95. Ron McKnight re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
96. Tammy Palfreyman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

97. Gord Fleet re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

98. Joyce E Meissner re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

99. Abigail Willms re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

100. Robin Thomas re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

101. Tammy Palfreyman re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

102. Meredith Berrouard re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

103. Ruth Cameron re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

104. Kayleigh Cadenhead re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

105. Sherry re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

106. Christine Carey re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

107. Ms. Symara Cyr re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

108. Prateek Kumar re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

109. Gary Staveley re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification
110. Shane Outridge re: 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services
Community Consultation and Site Identification

Consent Procedure

THAT all items listed under the heading of Consent Agenda for Tuesday, April 6, 2021 Council Agenda be adopted as recommended.

Resolution: 21-080

Moved by: Councillor Wolf

Seconded by: Councillor Mann

Items #

1. Special Council Minutes - March 16, 2021

2. Council Information Package - March 19, 2021

3. Cambridge Cycling Trails Advisory Committee Minutes – January 14, 2021

4. Committee of Adjustment Minutes – February 3, 2021

5. 21-062(CD) Noise Exemption – Wesley Boulevard Moffat Creek Crossing Construction

6. 21-076 (CD) Request for Revision of Loan Agreement – Kinbridge Community Association

7. 21-091 (CRS) Appointment of Municipal Officers and Servants

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

Consideration of Matters in Closed Session

Motion: Waive Notice Requirements
Resolution: 21-081

Moved by: Councillor Mann

Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

THAT the notice requirements of the procedure by-law be waived to consider a matter in closed session.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor

McGarry

Resolution: 21-082

Moved by: Councillor Devine

Seconded by: Councillor Liggett

THAT in accordance with Section s.239 (2)(f) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Council convene in Closed Session at 7:54 p.m. to consider the following subject matter:

Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose (legal advice)

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor

McGarry

Council to Rise from Closed Session

Resolution: 21-083

Moved by: Councillor Mann
Seconded by: Councillor Adshade

That Council rise from Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session at 8:07 p.m.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor

McGarry

Opposed: None

Consideration of Reports

Community Development

8. 21-106(CD) Minister’s Zoning Order – 0, 128, 134, 140, and 228 Old Mill Rd

Resolution: 21-084

Moved by: Councillor Reid

Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

THAT Report 20-106(CD) Broccolini Real Estate Group’s Request for a Minister’s Zoning Order for 0, 128, 134, 140 and 228 Old Mill Road, Cambridge be received;

AND THAT the application of a Minister’s Zoning Order as requested by Broccolini Real Estate Group for an industrial development on the lands located at 0, 128, 134, 140 and 228 Old Mill Road be supported;

AND FURTHER THAT City Staff be directed to work with Broccolini Real Estate Group to implement the Minister’s Zoning Order through future Planning Act applications, including Site Plan approval as generally depicted on the concept plans and renderings attached to Report 21-106(CD).

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

**Main Motion**

Moved by: Councillor Ermeta

Seconded by: Councillor Liggett


AND THAT Cambridge Council endorse the draft Regional Employment Area boundary;

AND THAT Cambridge Council endorse the employment land conversions recommended by Regional staff;

AND FURTHER THAT Report 21-065(CD) and its resulting resolution be provided to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

**Motion: Amendment**

Resolution: 21-085

Moved by: Councillor Wolf

Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

AND THAT Council request the Region to remove 1140 Main Street from the employment area boundary to permit consideration of these lands for future commercial uses.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 5-4

In Favour: Councillor’s Ermeta, Hamilton, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Liggett and Mann
Motion: Amendment

Resolution: 21-086

Moved by: Councillor Liggett

Seconded by: Councillor Hamilton

AND THAT Council request the Region to remove the southern half of the Elgin Street property from the employment area boundary as set out in Report 21-065(CD).

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

Motion: Amendment

Resolution: 21-087

Moved by: Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by: Councillor Mann

THAT Council requests that the Region remove the lands at 4050 and 4070 Fountain Street North identified as Item 17, Attachment 5 in Report 21-065 (CD) from consideration in the Employment Area Boundary until notification of the conclusion of legal proceedings is received.

DEFEATED, on a recorded vote 7-2

In Favour: Councillor Hamilton and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Liggett, Mann, Reid and Wolf

Main Motion, as amended.
Resolution: 21-087

Moved by: Councillor Ermeta
Seconded by: Councillor Liggett


AND THAT Council request the Region to remove 1140 Main Street from the employment area boundary to permit consideration of these lands for future commercial uses.

AND THAT Council request the Region to remove the southern half of the Elgin Street property from the employment area boundary as set out in Report 21-065(CD);

AND THAT Cambridge Council endorse the draft Regional Employment Area boundary, as amended;

AND THAT Cambridge Council endorse the employment land conversions recommended by Regional staff, as amended;

AND FURTHER THAT Report 21-065(CD) and its resulting resolution be provided to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

10. 21-081(CD) ROP Review – Major Transit Station Areas – City of Cambridge Opportunity to Respond

Resolution: 21-088

Moved by: Councillor Mann
Seconded by: Councillor Liggett


AND THAT Cambridge Council endorse the draft Major Transit Station Areas in Cambridge as outlined in Report 21-081(CD) and recommended by Regional staff;

AND FURTHER THAT Report 21-081(CD) and its resulting resolution be provided to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

11. 21-123(CD) 2021 Spring / Summer Programs and Services Update

Resolution: 21-089

Moved by: Councillor Mann

Seconded by: Councillor Adshade

THAT Report 21-123(CD) – 2021 Spring / Summer Program and Service Update – be received;

AND THAT Council endorse the modified program and service delivery as outlined in Report 21-123(CD) 2021 Spring / Summer Programs and Services Update to provide sports, recreation trails and outdoor services under pandemic conditions, including additional by-law enforcement and operational needs;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve a transfer from the Rate Stabilization Reserve of up to $862,000 from provincial 2021 COVID-19 Recovery Funding for Municipalities, for modified program and service delivery to meet COVID-19 operational and programming requirements as outlined Report 21-123(CD)2021 Spring / Summer Programs and Services Update.
CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

Corporate Services

12. 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

Resolution: 21-090

Moved by: Councillor Hamilton

Seconded by: Councillor Adshade

THAT Cambridge Council receive Report 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification – for information;

AND THAT Council direct City staff to complete community consultation based on the site identification as described in Report Number 21-121(CRS) – Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification;

AND THAT Council direct staff to report back with a summary report of the feedback collected in the Community Consultation;

AND FURTHER THAT prior to a potential future operator (s) moving forward with applications to the Federal and Provincial governments for a Consumption and Treatment Services site in Cambridge that Council receive a comprehensive workplan and provide endorsement of the site.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 7-2

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Hamilton, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: Councillor’s Ermeta and Liggett
Motion to Extend

Moved by: Councillor Wolf

Seconded by: Councillor Reid

THAT the time limitations on the proceedings of Council set out in Section 16.27 of the Procedural By-law be waived to extend past the hour of 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

Infrastructure Services

Notice of Motion - Councillor Hamilton

Note: This Item will be brought forward to the April 13 Special Council Meeting for Consideration.

WHEREAS there have been ongoing problems for more than nine years concerning safe pedestrian crossings at Holy Spirit school, and insufficient parking spaces provided for parents and their children at Moffat Creek Public School on Myers Road;

WHEREAS, despite more than 80 cars now parking on Myers Road twice daily to get their children to school, the Region of Waterloo is planning to rebuild Myers Road with no parking spaces whatsoever, resulting in, twice a day, cars parking on distant residential streets, and making parents with young children walk in potentially adverse conditions;

WHEREAS Cambridge and Waterloo Region face an acute need for parking on this road at this specific location and a general and increasing need for parking as this area of the city, Southeast Galt, grows and intensifies substantially;

THERE IT BE RESOLVED that Cambridge Council request Regional Council to direct Region staff to work in consultation with parents and residents of Cambridge, to evaluate
options for parking spaces on Myer's Road at Moffat Creek Public School, and that correspondence be sent on behalf of Cambridge Council requesting Regional Council to consider that parking on Myers Road is essential for the overall safety and wellbeing of its parents, children, and residents of today, and the future.

Unfinished Business

Motion to Receive and File

Resolution: 21-091

Moved by: Councillor Wolf
Seconded by: Councillor Mann

THAT Council receive all presentations and correspondence at the Special Council Meeting held on April 6, 2021 for information.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None

Introduction and Consideration of By-laws

Resolution: 21-092

Moved by: Councillor Liggett
Seconded by: Councillor Reid

21-023 Being a by-law to amend By-law No. 119-08 providing for the appointment of Officers and Servants of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillor’s Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry

Opposed: None
Confirmatory By-law

Resolution: 21-093
Moved by: Councillor Devine
Seconded by: Councillor Mann

21-027 Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillors Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry
Opposed: None

Close of Meeting

Resolution: 21-094
Moved by: Councillor Ermeta
Seconded by: Councillor Adshade

THAT the Council meeting does now adjourn at 11:40 p.m.

CARRIED, on a recorded vote 9-0

In Favour: Councillors Adshade, Devine, Ermeta, Hamilton, Liggett, Mann, Reid, Wolf and Mayor McGarry
Opposed: None
Greetings.

The thought of a CTS site in our City just infuriates me. Knowing that someone is trying to install one within 500 m of my home and many other residents of this community is absurd. You as our elected officials must take into consideration the needs of the tax paying citizens who live close to these selected sites. I'm sure you are aware there is an elementary school in close proximity to bother of these sites, as well as two daycares, and The Muslim academy, not to mention many families with very young children, some within feet of said proposed sites.

I understand there is a need to help people who are addicted, a site where people can use the drugs that they are addicted to is in no way shape or form of help. We need these funds put forth for detox and rehab. Anything else would be in my opinion be cruel and unusual treatment not just for those that are fighting addiction, but those who have to live near and raise their children near these sites.

Please vote against any such site in our City. And forge ahead with treatment for those affected by addiction.

Please include this e-mail in the agenda for the council meeting for March 30th. Re: item# 21-121 (CRS)

Respectfully yours

Brent Woodworth
Hello. I would like to request the following letter be included for the city council meeting scheduled for this coming Tuesday March 30th.

I'd like to state this right off the bat, **I am very much in favor of CTS Cambridge locations** regardless of where they go. I feel that it is essential that these sites are opened so that the risks and deaths associated with drug use can be mitigated and helped. I am a resident of [Redacted] in Cambridge along with my wife and infant daughter and we basically are a few doors down from the proposed 8 Oxford St location.

The people that these CTS Cambridge sites will service are just that, people. They are citizens of this city same as me and my wife and daughter and they are hurting and in need. Denying the CTS locations is an effort to sweep the drug problems of Cambridge under the rug and away from people eyes and neighborhoods but that will just prolong the problems that need to be addressed. The people who will be using these CTS sites are already in our neighborhoods, they're already our neighbors and as a community we should be concerned with helping our neighbors, not shuffling them off and saying, "not in my backyard".

CTS will not encourage drug use, drug use happens regardless of whether it's right or wrong, legal, or illegal, it's a symptom of many much greater societal problems that we face, and seeing as they are societal problems, we should face them together as a society and as a community and not shy away from them.

Thank you for hearing this message and for seeing this project through, no matter what the outcome is I appreciate your efforts.

Patrick Sparrow
An open letter to mayor, council and staff, regarding site selection of Drug Consumption Sites in Cambridge.

Attention to Mayor, council and staff, Please include my email in the upcoming agenda package for council. Its taken me a few days to compose this email to all of you in regards to site selection of a CTS within Cambridge . What can I possibly say, that hasn't already been said and ignored? I've been pondering over the years of emails, delegations, reports, statistics, public consultations, recommendations, petitions and community feedback. I find it alarming that we are now at the point of proposed site locations, despite the overwhelming opposition to any such site by your elected constituents and consultation reports. I do not doubt that there are some who support, mainly invested proponents of drug consumption sites from surrounding communities, but there continues to be a lack of consideration from the thousands of voices in opposition. May I remind council and staff of the report in which it addressed and affirmed, that council was not listening. I will simply write this; I do not support a drug consumption site anywhere in Cambridge. I do not support the continuing path of site selection. I know I will be called upon by my community to speak again with the need to stand up for our concerns. I will not let our voices be cast aside.

Regards,

Toni Varga
Dear Mayor and city council,

I am a life long resident and local business owner in Cambridge, I am writing to you today to voice my dissapproval towards a CTS anywhere within Cambridge. I along with many other residents of our city do not want a drug consumption in our town.

Respectfully yours,

Brett Goddard
Hello,

Further to Joanne’s email. Please treat this email as a formal letter and I would appreciate this being added to the agenda for the Council meeting slated for Tuesday the 30th of March, 2021.

Speaking outside of my seat as the Downtown Cambridge BIA Chair, I am reaching out as a heavily invested stakeholder, who has tirelessly put in substantial efforts to better the core irrespective of returns (contrary to what most believe of developers). I have volunteered my time working with the BIA, supporting business owners /property owners who are putting in similar efforts and invested a substantial amount of resources.

I urge Council to reconsider the proposed location 8 Oxford St as it is too close to the downtown cores proximity, or push support to the proposed 15 Easton location. A large proportion of the community collaboratively put a substantial amount of effort opposing a CTS site in the core and we would like to see the promises that were made fulfilled.

Sincerely,

Omar Kaake
To whom it may concern,

I am a resident who lives in the area around the proposed drug consumption site for 8 oxford st, and i would like to express not only my concern, but my objection to placing such a site in our neighbourhood.

We are a residential area with many families and a proximity to schools, daycares, and early childhood education sites; as such, it does not seem appropriate to open up a site that will, by its very nature, be frequented by people with substance abuse problems. I have zero problem with this idea of having safe places for the poor souls that have been infected by a terrible disease known as opioid addiction. I have dealt with it personally. It is a tragedy that has infected our Society for Millenia, and I truly believe in a program like this, but I also believe in keeping my neighborhood safe and drug free.

It is fair to say that the people coming to these clinics/places have severe mental health issues. That can be violent in nature. This needs to be kept in a place that's safe for everyone. Not just the children but the users as well. We need to cure the problem from within, but exposing it to our youth will only normalize it's acceptance rather than help prevent it.

Please do not allow this. If you. I will see to it that this place does not survive. You have my words counselor: I will not accept this in my neighborhood.

Cheers,

Jimbo D
I am highly against this decision. As a young mom I want my family to stay safe. My children go to Manchester and surrounding schools and it is completely unsafe for them and I am not at all comfortable with this “plan”. Do not open such facilities in a family orientation community; it is unacceptable.

Please include my letter in the agenda for the counsel meeting.

Sincerely,

Mekcada A. Rodie
Please add my letter as a protest to opening and allocating any site that enables drugs addicts to keep using.

Our citizens have protested this and our voices need to be heard as you are elected by the taxpaying citizens.

Galt has become so crime ridden and the downtown core is already struggling with so much crime and vandalism.

Our towns are sending addicts to our communities and I say enough is enough! I encourage rapid detox centres that help the addict get into rehabilitation instead to giving them a cushy place to shoot up! I demand my voice to be heard by this council! I have also alerted the premier to this Insanity!

Robin Thomas
Honourable Council:

I am writing today to express my concern with Council Item 21-121(CRS) Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification to be addressed Tuesday March 30th for consideration.

I cannot express not only how disappointed I am in the recommendation of the Community Wellbeing Committee recommendation of only 2 sites located at 8 Oxford St. and 11 Easton St. but also how obviously uninformed and irresponsible these recommendations are. It would certainly seem they were chosen out of desperation with little regard for the wellbeing of the community and a lack of other options. Perhaps the competence of the committee should be questioned or additional resources be made available to them.

Personally I will state I am not in favour of a Consumption and Treatment Services site however it has become quite obvious Council is bent on implementing such a site within The City of Cambridge.

I cannot speak to 11 Easton St. but I do live directly in the neighbourhood of 8 Oxford St. and I can attest this is a family neighbourhood of single family or low density housing. It is a quiet neighbourhood where people live and play, you will see people walking the neighbourhood on a regular basis, elderly walking their dogs, children playing or riding their bikes and skateboards down the quiet streets.

How you can even contemplate placing a building that will have a steady flow of people travelling through this family neighbourhood while under the influence of mind altering substances often leading to very unpredictable behaviour. I say once again this is beyond irresponsible.

If you must move forward with such a site then a residential neighbourhood is not an acceptable choice. If people are not in favor of such sites they should have the choice to avoid such areas but when you actually place it in the back yard of where they live that choice is removed.

Regardless of your preference, can you honestly look in the mirror and say yes I would want this directly beside my residential home, beside the home of my elderly parents, beside the home of my son or daughter or their young children. I suspect if you are willing to be honest that answer would be no.
I strongly urge Council to reconsider location for such a site that once placed will be placed forever.

These proposed locations are unacceptable and the Wellbeing Committee should be directed to find alternative sites that are not directly in the middle of a residential neighbourhood.

I am not even arguing if a site should be implemented but should Council move forward with a site, then move forward with a site that considers all the residents of Cambridge.

I implore Council to reject this recommendation from the Community Wellbeing Committee and direct them to re-evaluate options in search of a more suitable site.

I can assure you, should you move forward these sites, they will be met with overwhelming public objection. As much as those suffering from addiction need support, a residential neighbourhood is not an appropriate place to supply such services.

I do hope you take the time to read this and your consideration is appreciated.

Regards

Kevin Nixon
An open letter to mayor, council and staff, regarding site selection of Drug Consumption Sites in Cambridge.

Attention to Mayor, council and staff,

Please include my email in the upcoming agenda package for council.

I want to voice my concerns with a CTS in Cambridge. I am concerned that a CTS continues to be discussed at council when the community consistently opposes such sites and instead advocates for rehabilitation investments. It’s also very surprising that a CTS site remains in discussion given the results of such programs in other areas. Even more confusing is that recovering addicts themselves oppose such CTS sites with clear messages that rehabilitation facilities are the only method that can help the individuals trapped in The cycle of addiction.

First, the drug problem in Cambridge continues to get worse. Drug addiction and associated mental health problems are causing not only danger to the individuals, but to the citizens of Cambridge. The very citizens that voted for the council want programs that will help these individuals get clean off the drugs so they can have their lives back, so their families can have their loved ones back. CTS only continues to condemn these addicts to prolong their suffering. They continue to rob the addicts’ families of their loved ones. This community wants to fix the problem not just hide the injections behind 4 walls. This is not only a lifesaving need, it’s a moral need. The investments and time need to be focussed on helping addicts. The community consistently advocates for rehabilitation centres to be built to ensure addicts have immediate access to get clean, to become productive again, to get their lives back. But despite the consistent request and support for rehabilitation facilities, the council continues to work for a CTS. The elected council does have responsibility to the constituents to ensure Tax payer funded programs are aligned to the constituents’ needs and safety as well.

Secondly, CTS in other regions have shown to be ineffective in slowing drug use. In cities such as Vancouver and throughout Alberta, rises in crime and drug overdoses resulted after a CTS. Property values close to the CTS also plummeted as did community safety. A report from Alberta (https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/dfd35cf7-9955-4d6b-a9c6-60d353ea87c3/resource/11815009-5243-4fe4-8884-11ffa1123631/download/health-socio-economic-review-supervised-consumption-sites.pdf) detailed the negative effects of the CTS programs. Many of the resulting issues detailed in the report are already occurring in Cambridge, including increased needle debris and loss of
public confidence in the police. They found that overdoses increased in the community outside of the CTS. So not only did the sites not achieve any decrease in overall overdoses, they did not result in addicts stopping drugs or getting clean. In reviewing reports on CTS it is enlightening to realize that only people/researchers who have financial gains from continued operation of CTS found any positive data. This is important and yet I have not seen this discussion or even acknowledgment of this fact when council considers which data sets to use. This is a blatant bias and I would hope that the council members would be more thoughtful on ensuring views not financially tied to CTS continuation be equally considered.

Finally, I would encourage council to listen to recovered addicts. Many speak out against CTS. There is a reason. CTS do not provide the needed access to rehabilitation services. Recovered addicts want rehabilitation. And yet the council continues to fund usage initiatives instead.

The drug situation is Cambridge is getting worse. Does council want to fix the problem or hide it? If you morally want to help these people suffering with addiction the choice is clear to stop considering CTs and get serious about a rehabilitation program in Cambridge. A properly funded rehabilitation program. Such a program would help the city and create more jobs than the CTS. It would be a true model of innovation within Canada. What will the legacy of this council be regarding drug addiction? Will it be the council that buried its head in the sand and hid the problem or will it be the council that took the bold and truest compassionate step to actually break the addiction cycle with a strong rehabilitation program and give these addicts their lives back?

Regards,

Cinnamon Cantwell
To whom it may concern

I am writing this e-mail to express that I am strongly opposed to the proposed Consumption and Treatment services site in Cambridge. The 2 locations are in a residential area with many children and elderly people. There are daycares and schools in close proximity to both of these proposed sites. I am NOT in support of drug consumption. We should be focussing on offering drug detox and rehabilitation, counselling, social work etc instead of promoting drug use.

I am a young mother of a 1 year old baby. We enjoy going for walks in beautiful downtown Galt, but I am becoming increasingly scared of being in that area. I have been threatened verbally multiple times within the last few months, threatened to be killed and to have my baby stolen from me. The frequency of these kinds of situations will only keep increasing if a CTS site opens in Cambridge. I have also witnessed just last week, a disheveled man who was clearly under the influence of drugs stumbling around, screaming at the top of his lungs, walking towards me and my son while at Soper park. I was afraid for our safety and had to immediately leave the park. It’s becoming to the point where I don’t feel safe in my own neighbourhood. I do not have security personnel to follow me around and keep me safe like the staff of city council.

Aside from the safety issue this arises, having a CTS site in either of those locations would drastically affect the property value of many residents’ houses. We have our life savings invested into our houses and it would depreciate rapidly.

I am extremely infuriated that these locations would even be considered for an injection site. I request that this e-mail be included in the agenda for the council meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 30th.

I urge you to stop planning for a CTS site in Cambridge.

Thank you,
Rachel Doiron
I am writing this e-mail to express that I am strongly opposed to the proposed Consumption and Treatment services site in Cambridge. The 2 locations are in a residential area with many children and elderly people. There are daycares and schools in close proximity to both of these proposed sites. I am NOT in support of drug consumption. We should be focussing on offering drug detox and rehabilitation, counselling, social work etc instead of promoting drug use.

My young family and I enjoy going for walks in beautiful downtown Galt, but I am becoming increasingly scared and concerned of being in that area. My wife have been threatened verbally multiple times within the last few months, threatened to be killed and to have our baby kidnapped. The frequency of these kinds of situations will only keep increasing if a CTS site opens in Cambridge. It’s becoming to the point where I don’t feel safe in my own neighbourhood. We don’t have the luxury of security personnel to follow us around and keep us safe like the employees, staff of city councils and the mayor.

Aside from the safety issue this arises, having a CTS site in either of those locations would drastically affect the property value of many residents’ houses. We have our life savings invested into our houses and it would depreciate rapidly.

I am extremely outraged that these locations and Cambridge would even be considered for an injection site. I request that this e-mail be included in the agenda for the council meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 30th.

I urge you to stop planning for a CTS site in Cambridge.

Thank you,

Hung Tran
Dear council,

Myself and my partner are new residents to the Galt community. We chose Galt as the community where we wished to purchase our first home. We were very excited about the future that this city has. This was a significant investment for us.

The two proposed locations are directly in our new neighbourhood. We are deeply concerned about the impact this will have on our community and our investment. This is not the direction we would hope for our community. Frankly speaking, it is disheartening for us to consider that we have made the wrong choice by purchasing our home in the future path of these centres. We have seen - in Hamilton and London - what these centres do to the communities that they inhabit.

We oppose these sites

We want this email to be attached to the agenda of the forthcoming meeting

Regards

Adam Braun
To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my concerns regarding having a CTS site located at 8 Oxford Street.

This is on behalf of my parents who are residents of Roseview Avenue for over 40 years, as well as their children who are very concerned.

The last few years have already been horrible for crime, theft, and vandalism now by adding this you are making matters worse. The many residents in that area have put in many complaints already with The Bridges close by this is going to make matters worse. Too close.

They do not feel safe as it is…. in their own home. You are making it worse by having many wondering the area in bad states.

I understand you want to help addicts and we as a community may do so but you may want to consider putting it close by to supervision…..example…. maybe the police station etc….. not by neighborhoods and schools. This is what you want children to see when they go for walks from Pluto Day Care very close by and schools. Not a great idea,

Crime has escalated in that whole downtown area and this will not help the situation.

There are many elderly seniors who live in that area as it is an old established neighborhood. Please reconsider this location. Please take the community’s concerns and make this city Safe.

Please have my letter included in the agenda for the council meeting scheduled Tuesday March 30th.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nancy Arrojado
Dear All,

As a Guide (Teacher) at MSC, I am extremely concerned about the proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site being opened so near our school. It poses grave health and safety risks to our students, staff and families. I oppose the proposed site put forth by the City.

Best regards,

Theresa Dejmek
Attention to Mayor, council and staff,

Re: An open letter to mayor, council and staff, regarding site selection of Drug Consumption Sites in Cambridge.

Please include my email in the upcoming agenda package for council.

I am a lifelong resident of Cambridge and never before has the voice of so many citizens been ignored. Citizens who, in good faith, voted all of you into office with the promise that you would look after us, our homes and families and you have ignored us thus far. The majority, who are home and business owners; tax payers who are paying your wages, should have their voices heard. I find it alarming that we are now at the point of proposed site locations, despite the overwhelming opposition to any such site by your elected constituents and consultation reports.

I will simply write this; I do not support a drug consumption site anywhere in Cambridge. I do not support the continuing path of site selection.

I know I will be called upon by my community to speak again with the need to stand up for our concerns. I will not let our voices be cast aside.

Regards,
Darlene Baird
In response to your email. It seems that it doesn't matter what the voices of Cambridge voice, you and your council continue to make the promotions and move forward. You are not taking the MAJORITY of the voices of our community into consideration at all. You are taking the voices of a small group that sit at City Hall and they are making the decisions to move forward with the promotions and actions to continue with these drug consumption sites. Why not put up a building that these people can go for a year, without getting out. Come up with a place similar to Teen Challenge where these people learn life skills, are removed from temptations and have the time to remain clean and get healthy again. We will always have an issue with drugs unless we give these people a place to STAY permanently for a period of time without coming out. They need to be able to change the wiring within their brains that has been damaged.

Even Homewood rehab is not the place to send these people. It is a money-making organization that drains those that care, and medical insurance companies, pockets. These people go in there and get to go off the property and home on the weekends the first week they are there. These people need help staying away from the people and things that they were associated with, not be given the chance to meet up with them again. Something more needs to be done to prevent drugs and users, not a place that supposedly allows them to do it safely.

Providing a safe site is NOT going to HELP these people get off of drugs, it is only telling them it is OK to do it, but do it safely. Seriously. Have them go to each of your homes and sit there and watch them inject, go out of their minds and watch what they do. But remember, they are in safe hands. Seriously you all need to rethink your thoughts and understand what these drugs are doing to our community and to society in a whole. These sites are NOT HELPING anyone!!!!!!!

For those from Guelph that spoke of the wonderful thing it has done for Guelph at a recent meeting? These people are being employed there so it is giving them a job. Hurray for them

Linda Albright-Thiel
Dear Council,

As a business owner in Galt, I am very concerned about the possibility of having a Consumption & Treatment Site within our community.

For several years it has been very apparent that we have a homelessness issue within the core. I am concerned that the addition of a CTS will not only add to the current challenges but will actually draw more people struggling with addiction and substance abuse issues.

We talk of hopes for more foot traffic and life in Galt, and many of us are working hard to make this a community that business, family, and culture thrive in. Beyond my personal objections to the idea, I certainly do not think it is a wise step for our community. A location so close to our core seems counter to the growth and progress we are all working for.

I would strongly urge you to keep the commitment of locating beyond the 500m buffer at the very least.

Concerned and Opposed,
Eric Silveira
Dear Mayor McGarry and City Councillors,

I am writing to you to express my support for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site in the city of Cambridge.

As a psychology student, I understand the importance of the Kitchener CTS site, with the most important benefit of CTS being the saving of lives. Within the first six months of the Kitchener site being open, 71 overdoses occurred, but not one was fatal. Without the CTS site, many, if not all of these people would have died.

CTS's save lives. The people who need this service are human beings. They are people. They are members of our community. They are parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, friends. They are someone and they matter. They deserve access to a safe, supportive environment in which to use drugs.

You may not understand why people use drugs, and you may judge them for doing so. However, I am hopeful you will understand that they deserve to live. A CTS will increase the chances that they will.

I encourage you to open a CTS site in the City of Cambridge, and to do so with urgency as it is a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,

Natey Pranky.
Dear Mayor McGarry and City Councillors,

I am writing to you to express my support for a Consumption and Treatment Services Site in the city of Cambridge.

As a resident of the Waterloo Region and a psychology student, I understand the importance of the Kitchener CTS site, with the most important benefit of CTS being the saving of lives. Within the first six months of the Kitchener site being open, 71 overdoses occurred, but not one was fatal. Without the CTS site, many, if not all of these people would have died.

CTS's save lives. The people who need this service are human beings. They are people. They are members of our community. They are parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, friends. They are someone and they matter. They deserve access to a safe, supportive environment in which to use drugs.

You may not understand why people use drugs, and you may judge them for doing so. However, I am hopeful you will understand that they deserve to live. A CTS will increase the chances that they will.

I encourage you to open a CTS site in the City of Cambridge, and to do so with urgency as it is a matter of life and death.

Sincerely,

Stevie Tribble
I do not support drug consumption site in Cambridge at 15 Easton street and 8 Oxford Street

Kenneth Lin
Kathryn:

I have lived in Cambridge since 1975 and at my present address at the corner of Parkhill Rd. and Wellington St. For 36 years. I have enjoyed living at this address as it is close to downtown and other amenities. I have raised 6 children at this location and currently have numerous grandchildren who visit. I am writing you to tell you that since the Bridges opened I have had nothing but trouble. I have had numerous breakins in my house and car. I get a regular parade of people on my property smoking up, injecting themselves, leaving food and containers over the property. I have had to call the police several times to get them removed. Needles are constantly left on my property. I know they are from the bridges because I have followed them there numerous times. I can tell you many more stories, but am asking you to not allow the CTS site to be set up in this neighbourhood.

Thank you

Michael J. Mullen
Dear Council Members:

I am writing in strong support of the development of a CTS facility for the City of Cambridge. Cambridge does have a significant drug and drug overdose problem. Prevention of additional deaths from overdose is vital. Rehabilitation and treatment is required. Both of these goals are best achieved through a well run CTS facility.

We can build on the experiences of other municipalities, near us and further away, to bring increased safety and treatment and services to people in need. Over the past decade, there is increasing evidence that a well run CTS facility improves outcomes and lowers deaths in a community. In fact, a recent systematic review of Supervised drug consumption facilities (SCFs) demonstrates the effectiveness of these facilities. As summarized in this review:

"Consistent evidence demonstrates that SCFs mitigate overdose-related harms and unsafe drug use behaviours, as well as facilitate uptake of addiction treatment and other health services among people who use drugs (PWUD). Further, SCFs have been associated with improvements in public order without increasing drug-related crime. SCFs have also been shown to be cost-effective." (1)

I commend the city for using specific criteria to choose a potential CTS site. I strongly support the criteria that have been used, particularly the criteria of not impacting a nearby residential area. I hope that Council will vote to move forward on this issue.

Thank you,

Mary Law

Resident of Cambridge for 44 years

To the City of Cambridge, from a concerned citizen.

It has come to our attention that a CTS site is proposed for 8 Oxford Street.

This is not feasible because it is so close to elderly residences, residences who have young children, a lot of residences who walk their dogs. RESIDENCES in general!

This is not the place to put a CTS. Just like the proposal to have it at 150 Main Street, this is extremely close to schools and daycares. There is Pluto daycare on the street over, Montessori school right now the street, even better - accessible through the laneway. Manchester is a walk up to Dundas street, and GCI kids have a good thing to do during their lunch hour, or be harassed by those who are high. Just because this area is not in the downtown core does not give you the ok to do put it here. THIS IS WORSE.

Also if you are concerned for the person doing the drugs, you would not let them go out high and possibly be hit by a train. The train station is meters away from proposed site on Oxford.

Yes drug addicts get a place to do their drugs, but the neighbourhood suffers. The best thing to do is place the money into healing and rehabilitation for these people. That is the way to solve this crisis and to show you really care for citizens. Those who are hardworking and want to keep their neighbourhoods clean/beautiful and those who are hurting and need help.

Please include this letter in the agenda of the council meeting on March 30th 2021.

Thank You for your consideration. A citizen who lives on Roseview Ave

L. Vernon
I totally disagree with putting CTS Sites in Cambridge residential areas. I like you to have this email on your agenda for the meeting. Thank you.

Rick Costello
I hope your week is going well, and that you are remaining safe, healthy and grounded as these challenging days continue.

I wanted to take a moment to voice my support for the Consumption Treatment Site. I've said this before - but it bears repeating.

Cambridge is my home, it's the city I chose to call home - it is a wonderful place to live - and I am committed to ensuring it is a wonderful place for everyone to live. A quick reminder for you, we state (all over the internet, through our Chamber, tourist sites, and even the City of Cambridge website) that Cambridge is a thriving cosmopolitan located in south-western Ontario. Cambridge is united by its heritage, rivers, cultures and common future. We also say it is a place for people to prosper, alive with opportunity. The words that stand out to me are:

cosmopolitan
united
common future
people
prosper
alive
opportunity

These words were chosen for their inclusivity. We need to put these words into action to ensure this cosmopolitan city is united to work with everyone in our community - even our most vulnerable, even those who are struggling to prosper, even those who need the services that they need in the city they have chosen to call home - just as we all have chosen to call Cambridge home.

I've watched as cities across Canada have tried to grapple with big problems - addiction, mental health, homelessness, poverty - we have a public health crisis in this country - and it's here in Cambridge as well. This is not a new situation - these big complex problems have always been here in town.

Today I am writing to say I support the science - the research - that shows Consumption Treatment Sites are an essential and effective component of the social safety net. You have access to all the science and the research - use it. Although the only fact that should matter is - Consumption Treatment Sites saves lives. The big complex problems are here in town, the solutions need to be here in town. There is a lot the city can do to be a part of the interconnected network of services that these big complex problems need - and yes I completely understand the two-tiered system, and what level of government is responsible for what. I will say again - there is a lot the city can do to be a part of the interconnected network of services that these big complex problems need.

Approving a Consumption Treatment Site shows everyone in Cambridge that everyone matters. That Cambridge recognizes that we have big complex problems here and as a city we are going to take every action possible to follow science, research, data, and best practices to
address this public health crisis that affects us all.

As leaders in our community you set the tone. The tone our city needs is that science, research, and best practices will drive our decision making. The tone we need is everyone matters, and we will take any and all steps necessary to protect the most vulnerable in our community, to address this public health crisis to ensure Cambridge is a place for people alive with opportunity.

If you have any questions or concerns I am happy to talk further.

Kristine Dearlove
Good Day Mayor and Council

Tomorrow two CTS sites are coming forward for the council to decide on. As a business owner in the downtown for 42 years as well as a grandmother raising a child of two addicts I feel CTS sites are not the answer.

I understand addiction very well as my son has been an addict for many years which has lead to serving five years in jail. My daughter inlaw lives on our streets both have said that they need help to learn how to live a drug free life not a safe place to use drugs. WE need to spend money on rehab and drug free housing. When people say there is more to the centres other than drug use ...maybe but where can they send people for help wait times for a rehabs that work are 6mths to a year. Help addicts get a hand up not a hand to keep living a life of drugs.

Both sites are very close to daycares and schools. Children do not need to see people coming out after using. WE CANNOT UNDER ANY circumstance have a site in the downtown. I know first hand how hard it is to watch people and how they are after using.

We are still trying to deal with running business in covid please do not make it harder with a CTS in the downtown or close to downtown.

Please do the right thing and help addicts not to stay sick and help them get to rehab. Please help our downtown. We have enough to deal with. Council needs to vote NO to both sites as well not in the downtown.

Shane Murphy
owner of Clippers
Dear Cambridge City Council,

From 2017 to 2019, there was a significant increase in opioid-related emergency department visits and deaths in Ontario. In this 2-year period, the rate of opioid-related emergency department visits grew from 54.6/100,000 to 71.6/100,000. Opioid-related death rates have also increased across the province over the last decade, and the crisis has further worsened over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019 there were 1,509 recorded opioid-related deaths in Ontario. Preliminary data shows 2,081 confirmed opioid-related deaths from January to November 2020 in Ontario. This is a 52 percent increase compared to the same time period in 2019.

COVID-19 has had a profound health and social impacts on all Ontarians, particularly people who use substances. Pandemic-related factors contributing to the rise in opioid-related deaths are complex and numerous. They include physical and social isolation due to public health recommendations, reduced access to and enrolment in social and addiction services, and an increasingly toxic unregulated drug supply. This has resulted in an increase in fatal overdoses where no one was present to intervene.

Research shows that providing harm reduction services leads to a reduction in drug-related fatalities. Consumption and Treatment Services offer a wide range of benefits to people who use drugs, including a reduction in the number of drug-related deaths, a reduction in unsafe consumption practices and infectious diseases, and increased access to health and social services. Consumption and Treatment Services save lives and are a cost-effective means of addressing the complexities of drug use.

I request that you endorse opening a Consumption and Treatment site in Cambridge.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Crowder
Dear Mayor McGarry & Council Members –

I am writing to express my support for a Consumption Treatment Site (CTS) in the City of Cambridge.

CTS’s have many proven benefits, including:

- Reduction in mortality
- Reduction in overdoses
- Reduction in ambulance calls
- Increased access to addiction treatment services
- Improved overall health for CTS clients through access to a wide, coordinated variety of health & social services
- Decreased rates of disease transmission as needles are not shared
- Decreased rates of public needle disposal

Studies show that the closer the proximity of the CTS is to the population it serves, the greater the benefit realized.

CTS’s have proven track records throughout Canada, and more recently locally, in Kitchener and Guelph. Much has been learned through the experience of others of how to operate CTS’s to best benefit a highly vulnerable population, while also respecting the impact on other community members.

I understand that implementation of a CTS will not come without challenges, but I feel that the long-term benefits to the entire community will significantly outweigh the downsides.

Thank you.

Lynn Woeller
Good evening,

My name is Jenn Boyd and I am a long time Cambridge resident as well as the Manager of Harm Reduction Programs with the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area (ACCKWA). We have worked within the community for over a decade and currently have a fixed site for harm reduction as well as an outreach program.

Bringing Harm Reduction into my home town has always felt important to me, for the past five years, I have been able to do the work I believe in, in the place that I grew up in and continue to live in. I knew it would come with challenges both professionally and personally, but above all else I have aspirations that positive, inclusive change for all members in the Cambridge community is possible and necessary.

In my work, I have been lucky enough to meet so many people who use drugs. I have always felt welcome in that community and it is an honour to hear their stories, share lovely moments and be a witness to the ups and downs that come with being human. The past few years have become difficult, you share a laugh with someone one day and they are forever gone the next. The grief is overwhelming. You never forget, there are no numbers for me, only people, people I miss very much and people who deserved so much more than what they were given.

What is most devastating? The fear people have that they will lose their lives or lose even more family and friends to the toxic, unregulated drug supply. Some people say that it is a choice. I have always had issues with that word, “choice”. We don’t always have decisions in this life, there certainly aren’t decisions when everyday survival is in the thought process. Surviving every day, truly surviving, what decisions get made? What does the thought process become? We don’t know who we can be and what we are capable of when we are forced to survive. Compassion is our way to welcome a different kind community. Truly love our neighbours, save one another from the grief and pain of multiple traumatic losses.

I believe in CTS because it is another tool in the toolbox, another way that we can keep our community members alive. CTS can provide connections, supports and other wrap around services that take a holistic look at the individual. Nothing happens for one reason, there are complexities to every person and every situation. If we remove the fear of death, if we decide to love people through their substance use, it will be amazing what our community will be capable of for all of our futures.
Although I struggle with the removal of CTS from the downtown cores, I do recognize a need for compromise. When looking at the two options presented I feel that 15 Easton St. is the more accessible option. The Delta has a Tim Horton’s, grocery store, dollar store and other businesses that have people traveling to that area for already. Even though it is a bit farther of a walk, I feel that it will most likely be utilized by folks that need it because of all of the other places they already frequent being in close proximity. The other option has few things around it that would make visiting the CTS an out of the way place that would likely see less traffic as people generally wouldn’t be in that area for other reasons. The more you can create wider service hubs, the more successful it will be. Making people travel, who lack proper access to transportation is a barrier that feels unnecessary.

I hope that Cambridge moves forward in the process and can see that drug use doesn’t get worse because a Harm Reduction service is there. This is also true of the people who would access the CTS, there won’t be more people using drugs in that area because there is a CTS, people are already using drugs in our community. It provides a place that people can go if they wish to use drugs safely. Our community wont change for the worse, what will change is how people who use drugs in our community may feel, the inclusion and the sense of community that has been missing. There is no danger in having a CTS, there is very real danger in not having one.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jenn Boyd
Dear Mayor McGarry and Council Members,

My name is Kathy Moreland. I am a resident of Waterloo Region, a professor of nursing, RNAO member and most importantly the mother of an 18 year son who passed as a result of fentanyl poisoning this past June. I am writing in support of the Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Service's new site identification that is scheduled to be discussed at the Special Council meeting on Tuesday, March 30.

I am also a member of Moms Stop the Harm. You may be aware that Moms Stop The Harm is a network of Canadian families impacted by substance use-related harms and deaths. We advocate to change drug policies and provide peer support to grieving families and those with loved ones who use or have used substances. Our mission is to end substance use related stigma, harms and deaths. Our vision calls for an end to the faltering war on drugs through evidence based prevention, treatment and policy change. As a group directly impacted by SUD and its harms, we support a harm reduction approach that is both compassionate and non discriminatory for people who use substances.

Substance use disorder (SUD) is a complex issue. Consumption and treatment sites offer professional, trauma informed, person centred support for those struggling with SUD. Most important, they save lives. They are an important part of the support of those living with SUD. My son frequented the CTS in downtown Kitchener and was supported with clean needles, disposal options, counselling and support amongst other services. I strongly suspect he would have died sooner, had it not been for their service. Unfortunately, he was denied treatment even when he was ready to accept help. CTS sites provide a safe, clean space for people to bring their own substances to use, in the presence of trained staff. This prevents accidental overdoses and reduces the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV and Hep B. They reduce healthcare costs through decreased paramedic calls, hospital admissions and emergency room visits. CTS sites offer a range of evidence-based harm reduction services, such as drug checking and suboxone administration. These sites also provide access to important health and social service resources, like housing, employment assistance, food banks and substance use treatment and referral for those who are ready.

The overdose crisis continues to be one of the most devastating public health emergencies of our lifetime with an estimated 20,000 deaths in the last five years alone in Canada. These are preventable deaths of community members who are children, parents, siblings, friends and family. Each death is thought to impact another 8-10 people who are alive. A poison drug supply and COVID isolation have contributed to increased death in our Region. There would have been far more had the Kitchener site not existed.
While I recognize that there is a lot of stigma associated with those who struggle with SUD and many misconceptions about the negative impacts that a CTS may bring to any area of Cambridge, I do hope that you proceed with selecting a site that is most accessible and best serves the needs of those that struggle. **Where there is life, there is hope** for the person struggling with SUD and their families and friends. Please do not be swayed by fear, misinformation and stigma.

I would be happy to be involved in any public consultation once you have chosen the site.

Kathy Moreland, RN, MScN
Dear mayor, council person. I understand the need for a safe consumption site as the opioid crisis is not going away anytime soon, and the strain on EMS staff and the healthcare systems is mounting. However the two proposed locations are not the location I would recommend as their proximity to schools is a very large concern of mine and my neighbours. I feel a location in an industrial area where a larger location could include a shelter and some mental health support. As I feel this is the root cause of a lot of the addiction.
Sincerely Darren Schlueter
Monday, March 29, 2021

Your Worship Mayor McGarry, City Councilors, City Clerk, and all present at this City Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 30, 2021,

I am writing this letter today in reference to the recent announcement of the possibility of 8 Oxford Street or 15 Easton Street being chosen for a safe drug consumption site in our city.

I am a retired elementary school teacher who has lived on Bond Street for the past 34 years. Our neighbourhood is home to many young families. Every day parents and grandparents walk their children to and from Manchester School, down Bond Street and across the railway tracks. Pluto Day Care child care workers almost daily take the preschoolers for a walk around the neighbourhood. The Montessori School of Cambridge is just down the street on Roseview Avenue.

There is an apartment building directly across the road from 8 Oxford Street.

The likelihood of the users, milling around the neighbourhood, presumably will entice drug dealers to come and set up business in our area. This is a danger for all the young people who live or travel through our neighbourhood, especially the students who attend G.C.I.

I was shocked to think that residential neighbourhoods would be considered for this use. Any residential area is inappropriate for a safe consumption site.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Costa
Dear Cambridge council and Mayor McGarry

My family has lived in Cambridge for over 20 years, both our children were born at CMH and have only known Cambridge as home.

I urge each and every one of you to support the establishment of a CTS in Cambridge, in a location that will best serve the folks that need this service.

Specifically, at this time, I urge you to receive the report on proposed sites for a CTS in Cambridge, and to move forward as quickly as possible with community consultations, as the next step in this important public health and life-saving measure.

It was only a few years ago that the same tired arguments about proximity to schools and residential areas were lobbed at the House of Friendship’s rehabilitation site in Preston. The result: arson, a delay in providing a much needed service to our community members, and in the end the service is up and running, the neighbourhood is fine and people are able to access treatment. It should not be lost on all that this is the very thing that many complain is missing from a CTS, and the opposition then as now, was frequently misguided and based on fear, not facts.

What we all need to realize and accept is that wishing a problem away is not a solution, being opposed to drug use does not address another’s addiction.

Demonizing addiction and those who face the struggles of substance use is cruel and in this case is literally leaving people to die.

Donna, Mike, Jan, Mike, Pam, Scott, Nick and Kathryn, this is a heavy burden on all of you, however it is one you signed up for, and I am pleading with you as a citizen of Cambridge, as a father, as a taxpayer, it is time to move forward with a CTS in Cambridge.

Sincerely

Kevin Hiebert
Hello Cambridge council

I understand that you will be discussing the possibility of a treatment center in Cambridge. These treatment centers are so important for the people who suffer with addictions.

I am a registered nurse and I have heard so many positive stories about the impact of these treatment centers and we need to provide better health care for the people who are living with significant addictions. They already have been severely punished through their addictions.

Unfortunately too many people do not want this in their backyard.. and this is based on fear and poor information.

I hope you as the council will support a treatment center and not be bullied into preventing this from happening.

Sincerely,

Lily Hiebert Rempel RN BN.
Hello Mayor McGary

My Wife and I love our city of Cambridge and have lived here all of our lives.

This is our very first time ever reaching out to someone in the city

We consider this to be a very important matter to us, to our community and our neighborhood. We hear that there is a proposal for a

safe injection site for 8 Oxford Street the corner building.

We live just two doors down from 8 oxford street

We also have a son that is blind and that goes out three times a day every day for walks with his service dog as a form of exercise in that same location. As a young adult that cannot visually see this will be very frightening adventure for him. If the plan of a CTS goes through it would make that corner unsafe, noisy and with obstacles for him independently walk.

The neighbourhood is very caring and knows him and his dog well.

You must know that this area has many young families with children there is a lot of young couples with small kids its a neighbourhood where young families are starting off.

Including the two day care centres in the area

Not excluding the school in the area We are not against this may be needed but we think there are appropriate spots for it and 8 oxford street is not it.

Please reconsider the area there are many different areas that are not in an residential area

Perhaps across from the Tim Horton at the delta, the building is for sale

Or even the old Tim Hortons on water street

It is vacant

But please keep my visually impaired son and our families safe from the injection site

Thank you for you time

Kind regards

Medeiros family
Hello,

As a resident of Waterloo Region, I’m writing to encourage the City of Cambridge to create a CTS site. Please include this for the March 30, 2021 meeting.

CTS sites save lives and the people using them are human beings, whose lives are valuable and have meaning. People addicted to substances have a disease - this is a health issue. Many addicts are so as the result of trauma; drugs have become the only way to deal with pain, emotional and physical. Denying them a safe place to help fight that pain is cruel. Further, CTS sites could have on-site counsellors that would be available to help treat the pain that is often at the root of the issue.

Not creating a CTS site sends a message to addicts that they are expendable, unworthy of love/care/compassion/respect. Who are we as a community if that is how we treat our vulnerable citizens?

Please focus on our collective humanity and create a CTS site in Cambridge.

Peace,

- Joy
Consumption & Treatment Service sites should be considered to be the hallmark of new approaches to drug control and regulation. Through safety-oriented approaches, communities can come together during times of drug crisis to prevent tragedy from occurring. Communities in need of aid and social-structural changes would finally receive some relief from continuous stressors to cross contaminations that lead to substance-related deaths. There would be the opportunity to significantly lower the risk of death through supervised use, with the additional boon for medical interventions where needed. The allocation of resources for CTS sites would not only lower social stressors and risks within communities suffering in this time of crisis. These sites would also promote the overall health of surrounding populations through less risk to morbidity and lower the rates of resources needed through immediate medical or other emergency service intervention.

Both perspectives of social health and longitudinal economic improvements should strongly be considered in the decisions to implement CTS programs in Cambridge and continue changes throughout all of Canada to satisfy health equity principles.

Stephanie De Wit
Dear Mayor McGarry and Council Members,

My name is Crystal Harvey-Robertson, and I am the store owner of Juniper Artisan Collective located at 31 Main Street in Downtown Galt. I have become aware that the Council will be meeting on March 30, 2021 to review plans that could lead to a safe consumption site at 8 Oxford Street. As business owner and resident of East Galt, I have many concerns regarding the proposed location for this safe consumption site.

As a former hospital employee of 20 years, I have great compassion for the issues surrounding addiction and mental health. However, I do believe that Cambridge is failing at truly providing the appropriate services to these individuals, and in fact, is only continuing to enable what is happening. Without appropriate mental health resources, the addiction issues in our community cannot be addressed and will only continue to get worse.

I understand that 8 Oxford Street is now being considered for approval as a Safe Consumption site. This proposed location falls within the 500m buffer of downtown Galt. Council had previously said they would not support the site within the downtown Galt core or within 500m of the downtown area. I hope that Council will not move forward with this site. As business owners we already have a challenge attracting people from the community to come downtown. As previously mentioned, I reside in East Galt. I know many people that have lived here their entire lives who refuse to step foot in the downtown core. This is specifically due to the homeless and addicted individuals wandering our city. Adding a consumption site that is a 15-minute walk from downtown Galt is not going to solve this concern from Cambridge residents. A consumption site this close to downtown Galt will only attract more addicted individuals to our core area. This is not going to help business owners attract customers, or help us stay in business.

Having a consumption site so close to the downtown Galt area can lead to increased crime within the neighbourhood. A few months ago, there were several businesses over the course of three weeks that their windows shattered by someone throwing rocks through them. I’ve since had to upgrade my security system so that I could have a camera facing my front window. This is an added expense that I wish wasn’t necessary, especially as a new business owner.

I’ve had addicts block my front door with bicycles, and their bodies, and then yell at me when I ask them to move them from my entryway. I’m terrified of retribution and/or damage to my business. I’ve listened to people screaming obscenities on Main Street. I’ve watched people shooting up in front of my store, the then nodding off from the drugs. If I was walking around and
saw this, I certainly wouldn’t go into that store, and I suspect neither would any of you. This is only going to get worse with the addition of a safe consumption site so close to downtown Galt.

I encourage all of you to consider what we as business owners, and residents of this community, are asking of you. Please do not allow this safe consumption at 8 Oxford Street. Our livelihoods actually do depend on your decision.

Thank you for your consideration,

Crystal Harvey-Robertson
Dear Kathryn McGarry,

As a member of the board of directors with the Cambridge Montessori School, I would like to start by saying that I understand the importance of the substance abuse issue within the community and recognize your efforts in addressing this matter.

After reading the consumption and treatment services application guide for the province of Ontario the site proposal for 8 Oxford is well with the guideline of 100-200 meters of a childcare center. However, the Cambridge Montessori School has been a pillar in the Galt community for almost 5 decades and this should not be overlooked. We are the only accredited Montessori School in the Cambridge Community and the safety of our schoolhouse, children, staff and families are of the utmost importance to us.

8 Oxford is a 4-minute walk to the school and once an individual leaves the CTS facility they will no longer be monitored and the likelihood for the children to witness a person/persons under the influence is highly probable due to the streets/alleyways that are present for them to travel. Further, it puts our students, parents and staff at risk of potential for interactions or observations that could be traumatic. Our school is open 11 out of 12 months and the children are always outside, given the current covid guidelines this has been increased and so either the children are in our playground, going on nature walks and in the coming months implementing a learning garden.

The school has always obtained full enrollment every year and as a board member, I fear that this would have a negative impact going forward, as well as the financial obligation to upgraded our security measures that have not been added to the budget and any additional insurance, liability and damages.

At this time I would like to encourage the City Council to omit 8 Oxford as a possible location for the CTS site not as a NIMBY response but for the safety and well-being of the children and their future.

Sincerely
Tonya Hampton
Greetings Mayor McGarry and City Councilors,

Please vote in favour

I’m solidly in favour of a CTS for our community and while there could be improvements to the plan, I strongly believe it is vital for us to move forward as quickly as possible with what we have in front of us.

A CTS will be trouble free

The Pandemic has taught us that we must follow expert advice. There is overwhelming credible evidence of the effectiveness of a CTS service and strong local examples of successful implementation. With demonstrated local know-how we can be assured of a trouble free implementation. I called the South Division office of Waterloo Regional Police regarding death rates and without inquiring was also told how the KW CTS has made a major reduction in public consumption, disorder, litter, crime, disturbances and calls to police in the area nearby. Fact is a CTS improves the neighbourhood dramatically and we’ve heard Chief Larkin speak in public about that.

Educate, Consult and Choose a Site

All Cambridge has to do now is follow a robust and intelligent neighbourhood consultation process while making sure to execute a strong process for educating immediate neighbours to ensure they understand the true facts about clinic operations, and local impact so they are comfortable with this clinic nearby.

Move this off your Desk and Accept the Provincial Gift

And the beauty of the rest is it will get passed into someone else’s hands: Public Health and Sanguen have been there, done that, and know exactly what to do. They’ve got credibility with upper tier governments and something to prove to Cambridge. And the best part of all is the funding comes from the province and last time I checked, it’s there for the taking. The province has a health care emphasis on Addiction and Mental Health, something that is echoed by the developing Cambridge and North Dumfries Health Team so I expect there to be continuing support for actions in this field.

Stay the Course- Opposition will Fade When You do the Right Thing

And like many other examples where opposition was strong, you have listened, given serious consideration to the pros and cons. Once difficult decisions were made and solid plans and good management got going, much of the reason for fears and outcry subsides.

I encourage you to stay the course, move forward as quickly as possible to reduce deaths and improve the city’s image and environment.

Please include this letter with the agenda.

You can count on my firm support.
With Gratitude for all you do and Best Regards,

Keith Rivers
Please see below a letter myself and my business partners have written for your consideration. We request that this letter be added to the agenda and read at the upcoming Council meeting on March 30th. I understand that there will be a lot of delegates so in the interest of time, I have submitted this letter instead.

March 29th, 2021

Dear Mayor McGarry, Cambridge City Councillors, Cambridge Regional Councillors, Dave Bush, Dave Calder and Hardy Bromberg

Cc: Cambridge BIA

We are writing in regards to the upcoming Council discussion on possible locations for a CTS site in Cambridge. It has come to our attention that two sites are being considered and one of them, the Oxford St. location, is within the 500m buffer zone of the Downtown Core of Galt.

As business owners in the Downtown community, and local residents, we are incredibly concerned that a CTS site could be located in such close proximity to the shops, restaurants, and businesses that have been working so hard to survive and prosper here. The Galt City Core has struggled, like many small towns, to develop a thriving community hub where merchants and neighbours can partake in local events, visit with friends and raise their families in a setting that is welcoming, prosperous and safe. There has been a lot of development in our core in recent years and these revitalization efforts have been so encouraging, but we still have quite a ways to go. And of course the pandemic has brought even more challenges for our community and made very clear the importance of supporting our local economy.

We want to be clear, we are not arguing against a CTS site or are in anyway trying to put the livelihood of businesses above the lives of the drug addicted. We are simply advocating for the continued support of our downtown business community. It is imperative that City Council works with us to maintain the growth of our small business community.
Council clearly stated that a CTS site would not be within 500m of the downtown core, we trust this will still be the case. We have made business decisions and capital investments, such as recently leasing a second location on Main Street, based on Council’s word and we continue to ask that Council stay true to their word.

Regards,

Laura McKenna
Pamela Mangos
Joanne Malone
Good morning Mayor McGarry,

I know CTS is on the agenda today. I heard you say that this is not a discussion about whether to proceed with CTS or not, so I trust that is still the case. I would only add that I urge council to move as quickly as possible to do what they can to ensure CTS comes to Cambridge, and as close to the core as possible.

Thank you.

--

Melissa Bowman
Mayor McGarry,

There are many schools, neighborhood community centers, and residential areas in our city of Cambridge, in many directions all over the city.

Therefore, I do not see a safe place to have an Injection site. The information I have read and seen do not look pleasant at all and brings more trouble to neighborhoods.

We all keep our houses and properties locked and yet, stealing and destroying property is on the rise!

Cambridge citizens are seeing their garbage picked up, taken away in a cart and being left in camps on Riverbanks Near the river and the creeks, a water supply!

It is harder to enjoy the trails and Cambridge citizens deserve better.

A better plan must be made to help the people with drug addiction. Injection sites are not the solution.

The Bridges is an eye-sore as well lately. There are well-meaning people here in Cambridge but if you were to suggest putting a site anywhere close by where they had to look at it, they too would not be agreeable.

Sincerely,

Anne Lloyd Cook
CTS is needed to save lives, stop transmittable diseases, save the health care millions of dollars a year (To treat HIV for a life time its over a million dollars a person, with 20 or more new HIV cases each year in the region; while clean needles cost approximately 10 cents), and help clean the streets of used needles.

Kayla Ramsbottom, BASc (she/her)
Hello councillors,

I am a Waterloo Region community member urging you to support the creation of a Consumption and Treatment Services location in Cambridge. Kitchener has already reaped great benefits from their site, and another in Cambridge would provide much needed access and support. It is repulsive to have an attitude of "just go somewhere else," or to suggest that someone else should do the work in lieu of Cambridge putting in effort. Each and every city faces these challenges and can make a difference by making services available. Many hands make light work. Cambridge can do its part to support those in need, too. Creating a CTS site in Cambridge will save lives. Failure to do so will be a failure to save lives, or, in other words, denying such a site makes the loss of lives permissible via policy for the city of Cambridge. That's the reality of the choice. Please make this life-saving service available to your community.

Sincerely,

Kevin White
Honourable Mayor McGarry and City Council Members,

Please add my name to the growing list of people hoping you move ahead quickly with putting a Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site in place. It is long, long overdue. There is too much hardship for our street-involved and far too many lives haven been lost.

At the council meeting on November 11, 2020, I spoke about how much I have learned from my amazing niece who spent years battling addiction and living on our streets here in Cambridge. She showed me a Cambridge I did not want to see. She opened my eyes to the deep grip addition has on people and the terrible toll it takes on not just them, but those around them.

On June 19, 2019, I sent in this open letter to Council.

http://carlajohnson.ca/2019/06/19/consumptionsite/

Everyone agrees that rehabilitation is essential for people battling addiction and a CTS is a direct portal to help those in need. A direct portal. The evidence the other cities around us who have set up CTS sites is solid.

I echo the insightful understanding of Dr. Hank Nykamp in his letter to the editor of Cambridge Times.

“A CTS facility is not simply a place to receive clean needles. CTS locations are safe places where the less fortunate members of our community can be supported with complete wraparound services, including help to deal with many other issues such as mental and housing concerns.”


A CTS is counter-intuitive on the surface, but when you look at it closer, it is the best choice.

I remain very hopeful that help is coming soon for our most vulnerable.
Thank you for your attention to this life saving issue.

Carla Johnson
Dear City Council,

I am writing this as a board member of the Montessori school of Cambridge and as a concerned member of the community.

The sites proposed by the City for the CTS are unacceptable, as they are both within residential areas and school and daycare areas!

How is this even a discussion, considering no such sites should be in any residential neighbourhoods ever? What would you do if such a site were to open in your area, close to your home and your children?! I’m sure it wouldn’t be pleasant!

There is already an issue with The Bridges being so close to downtown and to our school. An opening of such an operation would make this issue much worse! Our children and teachers deserve a nice quiet area where they can take walks and learn!

I’m sure you can find a much better suited nonresidential area where you can give these people the help they need, without being judged and shunned by the locals!

Thank you,

Marieta Raszga
As a Cambridge citizen it saddens me to think our city does not help to look after the less fortunate among us by providing a Consumption Treatment Site. We can do better, we must do better, we have an opportunity here to show our humanity to reach out and make our city whole again. I would suggest not only should we be supporting and providing safe and supervised consumption site, with wrap around services, we should be providing a safe product for the people using the CTS. Spend the money on helping people. There has been two sites identified by staff, next step is to pick one.

"Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?"

Barack Obama

I again have included my daughter’s Dr. Karen Dearlove’s letter to the editor from September, just in case some of you didn't see it the first time around.

Karen Dearlove

’s letter in WATERLOO REGION RECORD

Some anti-drug protesters reject scientific evidence, years of research

Waterloo Region RecordSeptember 17, 2020

Re: Cambridge rally shows anger about drug users, harm reduction — Sept. 14

Although I currently live in Vancouver, for my first 37 years I called Cambridge home. I've watched as Cambridge and other cities in Canada have tried to grapple with the ongoing overdose epidemic. Addiction, mental health, poverty, homelessness, unsafe supply — these are complex issues that have created a public health crisis.

I am dismayed at how some people in Cambridge, calling themselves concerned taxpayers, reject all the scientific studies, years of research and public health effort, and respond with angry NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) protests.

Instead of supporting safe and supervised consumption sites, a strategy that started with InSite in Vancouver in 2003, and has since become a model for safe consumption sites around the world and in other Canadian cities like Kitchener, some people would rather just believe that drug users are criminals and should be ostracized from Cambridge.

Despite what protest organizer Adam Cooper has said, safe consumption sites are proven lifesavers, and police associations across Canada promote decriminalizing drugs for personal use.
as a better strategy than making criminals of drug users who are community members, your co-workers, your friends, and even your family members.

Karen Dearlove Vancouver

Regards

Joyce Chapman
To whom it may concern,
I can’t tell you how upset I am to hear that this address might be of consideration for a CTS site. It is in the middle of a neighbourhood consisting of two day care schools, an elementary school and a high school not to mention the many families of elderly people. This location once had a beer store in place. The traffic almost destroyed the neighbourhood. Fortunately it was removed from the area into a more suited address.
I hope the powers to be will do a better assessment of areas and realize that 8 Oxford St. would be a disaster.
Would you please send me notification of any meetings or information concerning this topic.
I thank you in advance,
Lee Taggart. (resident for 50 years)
Dear city officials,

I support CTS sites in Cambridge, and I am aware of the benefits they can provide. However it should be held in a clinic or hospital rather than imposing on residential areas.

I live across from one of the proposed CTS site locations and would not feel comfortable living directly across from one. Especially as a 27 year old female, I worry about my safety, and the safety of the other residents in my building. If this site is approved, I am no longer safe entering and exiting my building specifically at night and as such would need to move.

The proposed areas are too close to schools and daycares to ensure community safety. Please consider this when voting on tonight’s agenda.

Sincerely,

Nicole Moxey
Hi Mayor and Council

I would like my letter to be included in the agenda for today. As I sat and listened to all the delegates I realized I too had a story that needed to be told. I am a mother of 1 son who is almost 2. I live with my husband on Bond street almost right across the street from the safe consumption site. I have 3 stories I would like to share with you which will share why I am whole heartidly against a CTS being placed on Oxford St.

When I was on maternity leave with my son we enjoyed visiting the early on centre downtown. One day as we walked from our house downtown I was approached by a woman she was quite obviously on drugs and I was very apprehensive. As she approached she took an immediate intrest in my son. I tried to be civil but she began getting too close and when I tried to walk away she stood infront of my stroller and asked me if I would let her take my child. As a young mother alone this was terrifying. Luckily for me another man happened to notice our interaction and came to my rescue escorting me into Food Basics where I was able to call a family member to come pick us up. Imagine now if this happened at the CTS site on Oxford. What if she saw where I lived?

Another time I was home with my son who was home sick from daycare. We were snuggling on the couch watching a movie when I heard the keypad on my front door being pressed. Assuming it was my husband home from work early I went to the door to let him in. Instead I saw a man again on drugs trying to enter my house. When he saw me he began giggling the door knob and banging on the glasses. He told me to let him in repeated I quickly called my dad who came over right away and then the police. My poor sick child was terrified. He clung to me shaking for over an hour. This is a situation that is bound to happen again if the CTS site is moved in our neighbourhood.

My last story takes place as I walked my son to daycare. I was about 5 minutes from home when I saw a man on drugs across the street from me. He began yelling at me so I kept walking quickly. He then proceeded to follow me to my sons daycare. It is a gated Montessori daycare in the Muslim school so he did not follow. I began to walk home where I was again followed by this man. There were construction workers out working near my street so I was able to approach them to scare him off.

I live with these traumas every single day. I am still terrified to take my child out by myself. If the CTS comes to my neighbourhood I will never feel safe. Not outside not in my own home. Please consider me and all of my neighbours with young children.

Thank you

Megan Bailey
Hey everyone, my name is Shalon Armstrong and my dad is a recovering drug addict and recovering alcoholic. My dad became addicted to drugs after hurting himself at work many many years ago as well as not being given the mental health support he needed. He was an alcoholic long before that. My dad lost his job while I was in my early teens because they found bloody razor blades in the bathroom at his work and because he was using and would pass out at work. There were times we wouldn't have heat in the winter because there was no money to pay the bill. Fast forward a few years later he got his first DUI. My dad started going to day treatment. Meanwhile in all of this I would go around our home dumping any alcohol I could find. We lost the only house I ever called home and my dad became homeless. Throughout this I slowly became the parent by the time we lost everything I had tried to intervene and help him many times. If you give an inch he took a mile. That is the story for most addicts. My first love was also an addict. The enabling that his friends and family provided was astounding. They made it safe for him to use. They preferred wear the rose tinted glasses. Both my dad and my Ex went to rehabs. For my dad he went to detoxes and rehabs multiple times. It takes multiple times. This isn’t something you put a bandage on (like a SIS site or Enable behaviour like a SIS site)

Because my dad went to rehab and sometimes longer stays and then lived in a transition place attached the the rehab he was able to get the medical help he so desperately needed. He was able to talk openly about his demons and realize he’s not alone. He was able to get support and learn some self love. My dad has been clean off drugs with out relapse for over 6 years and before that 6 years he was off them for 2 completely as well. Unfortunately he lives with someone that allows alcohol to be in the home and enables him. When he is with us here he is sober. If these sites were available when my dad was going through all that he probably wouldn’t be clean. You need to make it harder to use not easier. Kid gloves DO NOT WORK! Rehab facilities work. Honestly my dad would probably be dead by now if it was for them. Honestly it was the Catalyst to getting him the mental health care he needed. As a daughter of an addict and a Ex significant other of an addict I beg you not to put these SIS sites up. My dad a recovering addict agrees wholeheartedly.

Empathy is truly an amazing thing. But having to much can also be a detriment. You can help addicts by giving them a place to get help. Making it harder to use. SIS is enabling behaviour and putting a bandage on the problem. Also do you really think an addict that needs a fix is going to hold onto there drug until they get to the SIS? You will still have the massive homeless issues, you will still have the theft issues because these people are still going to need to support their habit financially. The only thing this is going to cause is people feeling unsafe walking in any area close to a SIS and avoiding it at all costs. So that will also mean the business will lose revenue in a Major way. Im a mother, I would never knowingly bring my daughter near any unsafe place that also means seeing people injecting drugs or walking out funny and looking zoned out or with potentially scary outbursts. - when i was about 10 a man drug and high off his mind started touching my hair (we were on a public transit bus. I was sitting in front of him with my mom) he said inappropriate things and made me feel unsafe and scared. Women WILL feel unsafe and scared. We ALREADY feel unsafe and scared when we walk anywhere. I would however happily
walk past a rehab even with my child. Rehabs are place were people learn the tools to control themselves, to get the support they need. They help people become clear headed and help provide next steps.

They are a door to getting better. Some people may need to go through that door a few times but the more clean people the less homelessness and theft because people won’t need to steal to get high anymore. They can become productive members of our community or at the very least get help to get on the way to better supporting themselves. You would help out families back together by providing rehabilitation centres. Right now your not doing that. Your helping tear them apart.

I want to end this with my dad is my hero. He is the person that I would call and know would drop everything and anything to show up for me. He is the best Grampy and my daughters best friend. Even through everything he is the 1 person in my life I never questioned loved me. He helped me through a back injury and cancer. He has shown up and continues to show up. If it wasn’t for the rehabilitation centres he wouldn’t be here. My person wouldn’t be here. My daughters best friend wouldn’t be here. Please help people HEAL please help people RECOVER.

If you have any questions or would like to talk I’m happy to! My phone number is 647-892-7429.

Thank you for your time

Shalon Armstrong
Both proposed locations for CTS site are 3 minute walk from my house. I am writing this email with all due respect and out of shear frustration. Already situation in my little neighbourhood is unbearable. There are stolen property and ‘break & enter’ into cars and houses that cameras or lights are not able to prevent it. Parks and trails around are unsafe, with tents popping up, and piles of garbage everywhere. People in the neighbourhood are scared at night, scared to go for a walk on trails, scared for their own safety and property. This is a HUGE problem that needs to be addressed now! What are my chances against couple of drug addicts at 3 am when they break into my house ?! These are the issues City of Cambridge should address, as they are directly affecting the taxpayers.

Support treatment sites to help these people, not a free drug injection site to lure drug addicts here. If a CTS is supposed to open by your house, I am sure you would be against it too!

As a long time Cambridge resident, I am asking you to have my voice with the voices of all my neighbours heard clearly, strongly and loudly expressing against CTS in Cambridge.

Thank you.

Anita Stefanovic
To our Cambridge Council

I worked in public health for 32 years in Waterloo Region including on our harm reduction team in both the Waterloo and Cambridge offices.

Without a doubt there are challenges for Cambridge's Council to accommodate the various stakeholders surrounding CTS sites. It should be abundantly clear, however, that what is good for individuals with substance use health issues is also good for the community at large.

There is a great deal of evidence to support the effectiveness of CTS. Also, neighborhoods homing CTS have little or no more problems than neighborhoods without CTS.

I urge Council to exert responsible and compassionate leadership with this issue. Make it work for everyone. Put the CTS site somewhere soon. Neighbours may be convinced that things weren't as bad as they thought. Stop with what appears to be a filibuster type approach. Why? Because there is a crisis and people are suffering and dying.

Cheryl Opolko, RN
Kitchener ON
Hello Mayor McGarry and City Councillors,

I am emailing to expressing my complete support for a Consumption and Treatment Site in the City of Cambridge. Please include my letter as part of the official records for the meeting of March 30, 2021.

I am a Registered Social Worker and resident of the Region of Waterloo, and in my academic, professional, and personal experience, I have seen clearly the benefits of CTS sites.

In the first 6 months of the CTS site in Kitchener, there were 71 overdoses and no fatalities. Without the CTS, many of these people (if not all) would have died. At the InSite CTS in BC, there have been 2395 overdoses and no one has died. These examples unequivocally show that CTS sites save lives.

People who use drugs are human beings and citizens who deserve care, the same as any other citizens. They deserve to live, and a CTS site in Cambridge drastically improves their odds that they will.

I implore you to open a CTS site in Cambridge as soon as possible, to save lives of our neighbours and fellow citizens.

Sincerely,
Becky Verdun
MSW, RSW
Resident of Waterloo Region
To the Mayor & City Council:

Please go forward with plans for this. It will save their lives and also make downtown a nicer/safer place to be. If run properly, it will help people turn their lives around and regain their self-respect.

Janet Simms-Baldwin
Absolutely opposed to this or any site anywhere in Cambridge. This only breeds more crimes and fear for children and personal shopping if this should happen. NO to any of these sites anywhere in Cambridge. Tax dollars should go for treatment of real help for the addiction and affordable housing. None for continued use!

Joan
Dear Cambridge City Council and Mayor Kathryn McGarry,

In addition to my endorsement of the letter submitted by the RNAO Waterloo Chapter Executive, I wanted to take this opportunity to share personally how harm reduction services and in particular, the Consumption & Treatment Services (CTS) model, has benefited the community I have had the distinct honour to provide care for.

I have been a registered nurse for nearly a decade and the majority of my career has been focused on the area of mental health and addictions.

I have been employed in a residential treatment center, provided community care and support in downtown Kitchener, and 3 years ago, I began work in what was then a Temporary Overdose Prevention Site (TOPS).

My work at the TOPS and then the re-imaged CTS has been by far the most beneficial for the clients whom I treat. In the CTS, we have had great success connecting disenfranchised peoples to essential services, primary health care, and life saving measures including overdose response, and naloxone training and dispensing. Furthermore, we provide opioid agonist maintenance therapy to deter clients from the illicit supply and hopefully find some stability in their day to day.

Until the CTS became available, I often felt helpless and ineffective in addressing this serious and prolific crisis. Since the CTS opened, I have had improved opportunity to meet clients where they are at and empower them to identify and realize meaningful goals in their life and with their recovery journey. These goals, and client recovery is only possible if the client is able to stay alive; and this is precisely what harm reduction and the CTS make possible.

Clients who historically are left on the fringes of society become engaged in valuable processes, learn about safer injection techniques, are warned about trends in contaminated supply, and are taught about safe disposal of injection supplies post consumption. They do not leave their equipment on the streets or in public bathrooms and are afforded some dignity, autonomy, and respect in the safe space we are providing.

I have seen clients that I am sure many others would have deemed a “lost cause” become active community members; they are connected to housing and employment services and aren’t spending their days fixated on addressing the very real concerns of withdrawal that often lead them to participate in criminal activity.

Moreover, there are a number of public health measures that are dramatically improved with the CTS and harm reduction practices, in particular lowered trends in disease transmission. Add to that, fewer visits to emergency rooms, reduced calls to paramedics and police; and you can see that there are also fiscal rewards to this humanitarian effort.

I am extremely grateful to be able to work with the community I do and to see individual and public health improvements that are hugely impactful. I implore you to continue with the establishment of a CTS in Cambridge; I am confident the residents of Cambridge will quickly see the rewards of this program, and most importantly, so many lives will be saved.

I will gladly be involved in any consultative process your council or community deem necessary.

I have also attached a word document of this same letter.

Thank you,
Christina Hughes R.N.
Hello members of council,

As you know, I typically am usually only active in heritage matters, but the ongoing debate about a safe injection site in Cambridge also concerns me.

As a property owner in Preston and now also in Galt (I purchased a second home so my parents can retire here), I am worried about the proposed locations of the site and the rapid increase in crime in my city.

The Bridges and the immediate area are turning in a war zone. I’ve been to Vancouver many, many times and Galt is looking more and more like Hastings everyday. The drug epidemic also has far greater reach, with my own neighbor’s daughter being involved with folks who regularly do meth and did so in the vacant properties across from my home on Fountain St N.

I am worried about my parents moving here to the house I bought them on Wellington St. I met the neighbor beside them today during a walk through and he said he has had folks break into his home. This is deeply upsetting and has me already regretting encouraging them to move here so I can take care of them. What has happened to my city since I moved here in 2008 and when will real solutions be presented?

We need facilities that can accommodate our swelling population of addicts in this city. This may involve expanding the Bridges or relocating it. If this is the case, the safe injection site will need to be moved in accordance. When I initially heard some years ago that it would be at the hospital, this made the most amount of sense to me to ensure the users are safe and will cut down on the constrain stream of ambulances frequently at the Bridges.

Council should consider directing staff to come up with a long term strategy to increase housing for the homeless that includes safe injection site and rehab facilities. The amount of spots needed and wait times are increasing - sometimes people wait over a year and by then, it’s too late. I think we are going about this all wrong and it needs to have a more strategic planning approach.

This site may be an important piece to the puzzle, but it will fail if housing and rehab facilities are also not increased. We also may need to think of a new location for all of these much needed services to be collocated and well away from residential areas. Michelle Goodridge
Hello I have to say I don't understand the direction the city is taking on these consumption sites it makes no sense to enable a person. the direction should be to rehabilitate reteach put them back into the community as upstanding citizens who can take care of themselves who are able to provide for themselves and not depend on city resources and government resources all you are doing at this point is allowing people to stay in addiction and wreak havoc on the city

Sue Johnson
Dear Ms. McGarry & Ms. Liggett

I wanted to add my voice to the Consumption & Treatment Services site locations debate. After a long process I believe a lot of us have come around to the fact that a CTS needs to come to Cambridge to address the crises our city is facing. However, I am very disappointed in the fact that after all our work together that one of the sites (Oxford St.) is within the Downtown Core Buffer zone and is in a Residential area close to schools. Within three blocks of the proposed Oxford St. site there is a Children’s Day Care, a Montressor School and Galt Collegiate! This completely ignores all the previous work and recommendations (including your own) to this point in the process.

We have supported you both in the past but if this Oxford St location goes ahead your deceit will not be forgotten on Monday October 24, 2022. We will work to remind you and the voting public of this in 2022.

Regards

Mark Schuiling
Attention: Councillor’s City Of Cambridge We are an operational establishment from year 1972. It came to my attention that City of Cambridge is planning to have Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification. As a Citizen and also a Helping hand for Community as Child care provider, I am not agree with the idea to develop these Sites. I am going to discuss my reason to oppose the idea in the following paragraphs: There are number of schools & Childcare centres in the neighbourhood: -Manchester Public School - Montessori Schools of Cambridge -Pluto Daycare, Cambridge -GCI High School -Tender Loving Daycare -Home Daycares in Area. This is not an agreeable ideas to establish CTS injection site in the the middle of these Establishment having Children in them. Suggestion; City of Cambridge is well known for Film Industry/Movie Production and City of Cambridge makes good money from sources like movie production and Property Tax. Instead of spending this money on CTS sites in the middle of town, the money could be spent really smart way outskirts buying a piece of land to build a nice housing or Motel for the people who need help through CTS Injection sites. This will provide a nice privacy to the people involving CTS sits. Also, this piece of land could be used as productive way such as to Grow Vegetables, Fruits, Flowers. Benefits of having Site Outskirts: It will provide employment to the people involve. It will Support people mentally and physically through involving them in certain activities to compete with todays society. It will support Center will be assisting the clients using services to be productive and enhance their confidence, life style and Self worth. It will act as Recreational centre through providing them certain Recreation activities for emotional and physical healing such as Sports, Painting, Art & Craft(The pieces could be sold for providing financial support for the Site) Natural Green Healing is the concept some countries are using to heal people, if this site will be outskirts properly set up with highly professional people, It will be a good source to help people enjoy their life under the shade of nature. Also, it is not safe to have this CTS sites in the city since community is already struggling with some safety issues due to having people in their backyards, under the doors and on the walkways. Personally I experience, so many times, on my property men sitting under backdoor exit, nighttimes 9 pm and early in the morning 6 am. Sometime, they are hiding behind the garbage can and in the Alleyway, that is not acceptable in the community at all. This is really unsafe and dangerous. It is so important to have a Place/Centre to help people with needs but it should be a Rehabilitation centre instead of CTS sites. It is necessary to discourage people from Addiction through rehabilitation instead of encouraging them to have Addictive substance through CTS sites. Please pay attention to our Community to develop safe and proper proposal to keep everybody safe in our community. Thank you for your understanding. Mrs. I. Vestenicky Landlord and Director, Pluto daycare, Cambridge
Good Afternoon, Last night's special council meeting was long and it was made clear that residents are opposed to a CTS site anywhere in Cambridge.

That being said I would like to address delegate Deborah Donner and her extremely heart wrenching story. Her family's experience is one of many and we absolutely need to do more as a community to ensure that more families do not end up in the same situation.

She believes that a CTS site might have been the savour for her family. Unfortunately, that would not have been the case. Drugs would still have been in the home and available to her young child. In fact, having a CTS site might end up causing more of these unfortunate cases and not less.

What Deborah's daughter needed most of all, was better post Rehab and mental health supports. That is where our community failed her. She had already went through rehab and admitted that it was the best place for her daughter and where she regained some normalcy. If she had received better post rehab supports, perhaps she would have never went back to drugs and the eventual death of her child.

A CTS would not have removed the drugs from her home. The only thing that would have removed the drugs from her home is if she continued down the road of rehab and never brought the drugs back into her life and into her home.

Please advocate for better rehab and mental health supports through the province. Accepting the only money available, which is harm reduction, makes the provincial government look as if they are doing something to help these poor souls. In fact without the other pillars already in place, harm reduction alone is a failure.

Push back at the provincial government and demand better. Don't accept scraps when our citizens deserve a 5 course meal.

Many thanks,
Angela
Good Afternoon

I would like to add my voice to those who are against having safe injection sites in residential areas. Actually I am against them anywhere, and believe that the money should be spent on treatment rather than perpetuating the problem.

Could you honestly tell me that you would not object to having a safe injection site near where you live? Or near where you elderly parents live? If you must have such a site, then please put it down town, away from where people live. If you disagree with that idea then clearly you care more about money than you do people.

Mary Foulger
Mayor Kathryn McGarry,

I am writing to you in regards to the delegation meeting that took place on Tuesday March 30th, 2021 about the CTS sites in Cambridge.

I, like many others, sat patiently to hear everyone speak their thoughts and ideas about these CTS sites. It was a very long evening with a lot of emotions.

My husband and I kept a tally and the majority of people that called were against having these sites in a residential neighbourhood. Not against the site, but having it in a dense, growing neighbourhood, like ours.

The people that were for the CTS sites, did not state where they live in Cambridge or even if they live in Cambridge at all. If it is not in their backyard, it is not their problem. If they lived next to this site or across from it, would they be ok with it? Would you be alright with that?

I think having a CTS site would be good for our community and the people who need it, BUT there needs to be other options for them too. Like rehabilitation programs and mental health programs. We cannot put in a site to feed a problem, we need to put in a site that will help the problem and get these addicts the proper help they need… in a safe and accessible space.

I spoke last night about how I think the site should be placed within The Bridges where the problem is concentrated. Why have the people that will be using this site come into a nice, revitalizing, dense, residential neighbourhood. That seems so silly to me. I have spoken to many of my neighbours and we are all against this site going into any residential areas in Cambridge.

People deserve to feel safe in their own neighbourhoods. I have lived in Galt, Cambridge for over 30 years. For the first 8 years of my relationship with my husband, we rented apartments throughout the Galt area. 7 years ago we bought our house on Roseview Ave. We looked at over 35 houses in Cambridge and this one was for us!

We found our forever home, the space is perfect for us. It has plenty of room for us to grow and thrive. We got married at home in our backyard, with all the people we love and care about. It holds a lot of fond memories.

It also has a studio space for me to create, and run my home business out of. It has taken me 15 years as a small business owner to take a chance on myself and start working for myself full time. Up until 2020, I have worked at local businesses in the downtown core area while I grew my own business.

2020, was the first year working for myself full time. I am so proud of my business and what I have accomplished over the years. My business is growing and thriving. By adding a CTS site literally across the street from my home business will make me and my customers feel so uneasy and unsafe. I will have to lock the doors while inside working. I won’t be able to let the warm air blow in like I do now during the nice weather. I will not be able to keep anything of value inside my studio or even my home… as I feel like the trespassing and breaking into private properties will increase in this area if a CTS site is added.

This area already deals with trespassing, break ins, theft, littering, camp sites, harassment and violence. I call the police on a regular basis already, with these issues. We should not have to
deal with these issues in the first place.. but adding to it would be a slap in the face to everyone in
the area. Will we be guaranteed safety and the proper security once a site is put into place? Is it
worth putting a whole residential area at rise?

I am so sad. I have worked so hard to make this house our home, just to only feel threatened with
this CTS site going into my front yard. Thinking about it is terrifying. My business will suffer and I
will not feel comfortable in my own workspace or home. What kind of life is that?

My husband works at Hilborn Pottery, over on Parkhill. He has worked there for 15+ years. They
also have negative issues with the Bridges on a day to day basis.

We both have to suffer through the issues that The Bridges play on our lives. Both at work and at
home. I can not imagine why having a CTS site in a dense residential neighbourhood is even an
option.

Since the Oxford St. location is within the downtown core it should be eliminated from the list all
together. The Easton St. location is a ridiculous place for this CTS site also. There are homes
right next to this site, schools down the street and a lot of local businesses.

My husband also spoke last night and he suggested a mobile site.. A site that can service
multiple areas in Cambridge, not just Galt.. To local camps and tent cities. Having a site only in
Galt is silly, as everyone in need of this site will come to this dense residential neighbourhood.

Along with a mobile site, another potential site for this CTS is in the hospital (which would be a 26
min walk from The Bridges or a 19 minute bus ride, The bridges is on a bus route making this an
easy and quick option).

If a situation goes wrong, they would already be at the hospital, being able to get the help they
need immediately. Making it easier for the healthcare workers, nurses and doctors. This would
also eliminate calls to the paramedics, police, and firefighters if the site was placed in the
hospital.

I think the hospital is the smartest and most logical choice. The hospital is equipped for this type
of trauma…. Not a growing family based neighbourhood. We already have to hear horns and
sirens going to and from The Bridges already.. day and night…. To have all that noise and havoc
across the street too, at all hours would be insane and uncalled for a residential area.

The Roseview area is growing and thriving, by putting in a CTS site, it will bring down the value of
all our properties. In the past 7 years this area has cleaned up so much. Homes have been
renovated and rebuilt, and young families have moved in.

I am proud of how this area has grown and is coming alive. Putting in a CTS site will make selling
our homes impossible, and we will have to take a loss in all the work we have put into them to
make them our homes. With the housing market being the way it is, we would not be able to
afford housing in a city we have called home for over 30 years. I do not think it is fair for members
of this community to be treated with a site like this. It is awful to think that members of the Council
would support such a site in a growing residential neighbourhood in Cambridge.
The hospital is central in Cambridge, allowing everyone and anyone in need for this site to access it. It needs to be in the hospital, Not our Cambridge residential neighbourhoods.

Think of all Children, Elderly, Schools, Renters, Home Owners & Local Small Business that would be put at risk.

Thank you for taking a moment,
Please take what I have written in consideration when making your choice.

Amar Bhuee
To whom it may concern

We write you today with concerns of opening a near by safe injection site. My family has lived on roseview Ave for 65 plus years. The neighborhood has always been great, the turn was when the homeless shelter over the hill was opened up. This pushed alot of homeless traffic to our street. Back yard break ins are now a normal weekly occurrence, car break ins people sleeping on our lawn etc etc. We are hoping you take a 2nd look for a location for a safe injection site somewhere more remote that won't cause so much problems for the neighborhood. Also having such site in the neighborhood will only decrease values of near by homes. We pray everyone gets sobriety and we believe safe injection sites might help keep our parks and other areas more safe. But please find a more remote location as we feel this will bring negative attention to Roseview ave our home for 65 plus years.

James Presseau

Donna Presseau
I applaud all of you for sitting listening to the same arguments repeatedly over several hours last night. I am grateful that as a delegate that I could spend the time listening at home rather than sitting at city hall for hours. Small upside to the pandemic I suppose.

I would just like to reiterate my argument that a CTS site is not appropriate in ANY residential neighbourhood in the city. Being in the center of a neighbourhood with families of all ages just doesn't work in my opinion.

Opiods and homelessness are issues not unique to Cambridge, obviously. Comparisons drawn with Kitchener and Guelph fail to take into account that Cambridge has three distinct core areas, none of which are anywhere near the size of those in Kitchener or Guelph. Neither of those sites are in the middle of residential areas either.

The only argument that specifically supported the Oxford St site referred to an informal survey of users who unanimously agreed that it was the optimal solution. That fails to consider the impact on the surrounding neighbourhood and the effect it has on quality of life for area residents. A solution to one problem for one group should not present a larger problem for a much larger group. I hope that you take that into consideration when deciding whether or not to proceed with the consultation process.

Looking at the bigger picture, I am currently opposed to the concept of CTS sites in general. I am, however, prepared to listen to arguments (of which I've heard many) that are backed by independent research. I agree that it is a public health issue that requires attention. Since health care is a provincial responsibility, maybe they should be making these decisions.

I do hope that if council decides to move ahead with public consultations over CTS sites that the two sites recommended by staff are removed from consideration. Location obviously is important, but some ownership should fall upon the users.

Thank you for your time

Ted Kewley
Dear Mayor, and council
I was very disturbed watching last nights zoom meeting.
Are these the only 2 sites being considered? Both sites are residential…even if Easton is mixed Industrial/residential there are homes on the street, a few feet away from the proposed site?
I find this irresponsible to have these sites beside residential homes even being considered?
Why not use the hospital if you want to at all costs put in a CTS site?
I can tell you that if a CTS site is put up on Easton, ( I own a property there, and it's closer than the 200 meter minimum), you will be hearing from my lawyer.
I own 2 investment properties in Cambridge, pay $23,000.00 in property taxes each year, if this is the way Cambridge is going to be, I am considering selling and moving my money elsewhere
Jim Boni
Attention to Mayor, council and staff,

Please include my email in the upcoming agenda package for council.

I find the proposed site locations to be absolutely ridiculous. Not only are they in residential areas with many children living mere feet away but also a stones throw from a public elementary school. Does nobody see the dangers in this? Also there is a plaza beside one site, there are already enough people in the parking lot asking for money, smokes and quite frankly, some are so brazen that it is scary at times.

Also, the buildings are not big enough to supply all of the support that is required. To simply enable addicts is one thing and that's all this sized building would be good for, but one would figure that other supports should also be involved as a start to prevention.

A large building like old city hall is required and all support systems could be together. Why would you consider moving these people farther away from all of their other resources to survive which are in the core. Or is it because you make too much money as Hollywood North to allow that to possibly effect it.

I do not support a drug consumption site anywhere in Cambridge. I do not support the continuing path of site selections.

Regards
Gary Staveley
As a very concerned resident of Cambridge I am not in favor of a SIS facility in our city. I am deeply concerned about the proposed sites chosen by you. These areas are very residential close to schools lots of children and Seniors. These facilities cannot and do not belong in any residential areas. We the residents should not be subject to this and the crime that comes with them. I live on Jarvis St one street over from Easton St. this is a very big concern of mine and the surrounding neighborhood. Most of the residents own their homes and work very hard to keep them. Why should the hard working tax payers be prisoners in their own homes, not to mention this will lower the value of our homes how is this fair. You seriously need to reconsider these areas for a facility like this. It is you're job and duty to protect the residents of Cambridge and right now we don't feel you are , you have 2 very concerned neighborhoods. I find it hard to believe that these 2 locations are you're only choses.

A very concerned resident

Christine Carey

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Sorry I just want to add a couple of things to my email I just sent. The Delta area is already a sketchy part of town we don't need to add to it with a SIS. Just down the tracks from where I live is the start of a tent city which doesn't make me very happy. Its time for this to change.

Christine Carey
I keep hearing about safe injection sites that are being discussed for opening in Cambridge, so I thought I'd drop my two cents. I come from the US, and from a rough background. I quit drugs in 2003, and have been clean for 18 years. It is beyond me why you would open places to enable people to do this rather than places to try to solve the core of their problem. These safe injection sites do nothing to help these people, or the people of the city of Cambridge. Despite all the measures you've taken to enable these people, and give them safe ways to act out their addictions, we are still having an increase in problems in the community and needle litter in places that are a danger to children. As things progressively get worse, I cannot wrap my head around why y'all would continue down this route, rather than focus on dealing with addiction itself. Coming from the viewpoint of an addict, it's completely baffling. There's a saying in Narcotics Anonymous: Insanity is doing the same thing, over and over again, expecting different results. I understand y'all want to do something, I just think y'all are going about it the wrong way. I seriously implore y'all not to open more enabling centers.

Byron Holmes
Hello There,

My name is Kayleigh Cadenhead and I am a resident and homeowner in Cambridge. I am emailing as I have been made aware that Cambridge just had a council meeting last week in regards to a possible CTS site near downtown Galt. I was made aware of this through a campaign to prevent this from happening organized by some of my neighbour's. While I do not agree with them I am happy they tried to involve me as it gives me an opportunity to be made aware of this possible opening.

I am thrilled that Cambridge is taking more steps towards helping out homeless and disenfranchised population. As a person who works closely with the public I understand how important sites like this are to our population and the physical and mental health of those needing to use the services. I was very upset by the pushback that you have been receiving in regards to this.

Sites like this as I'm sure you know are proven to help with drug and substance abuse. Stats show areas that contain these sites have a lower population of homeless and drug users present on the streets. I believe much of what the public thinks happens as a result of these types of sites is misinformation at its best and complete falsehoods at its worst.

Junkies and drug users do not use these sites to buy, traffic or consume drugs, they can do that anywhere and they already do. These sites do not encourage homelessness or drug addiction, they assist in not perpetuating both. Limiting homeless populations resources doesn't magically make them go away, it increases the likelihood of them not getting on their feet, and perpetuates the cycle.

I would love to know of any resources you may have that I can use to assist in educating the public as well as making the voice of those who approve of these sites heard. I am very disappointed I wasn't aware of this before the last council meeting and want to do my part to see Cambridge make this much needed resources a reality.
Thank you so much for your help and assistance.

Regards,

Kayleigh Cadenhead
As a resident of Roseview Avenue for over 20 years, I am writing to express my extreme disappointment in considering the site at Oxford Street as a potential candidate for the location of a CTS facility.

This neighbourhood already has more than its fair share of group homes and has seen a marked decline due to its proximity to The Bridges. Break-ins and drug addicts passed out on the street are now routine as more and more people migrate up the hill looking to use drugs or who are wandering through the neighbourhood looking for homes that are not as secure as they could be. There is even now a drug supplier living in a rental unit who has a steady stream of dealers who drop by during the day to resupply. Business is booming! It is open and brazen and the city has done nothing to address the decline; the solution for the city is to now foist even MORE of a burden onto this neighbourhood because it is conveniently located to the source of a problem that was created by the City of Cambridge in the first place.

The real issue at the heart of this matter is the ill-advised and poorly planned location of The Bridges. When this facility was first proposed, we were promised that it would serve young families in need of temporary or transition housing. What happened to that vision? The old adage of “build it and they will come” has never been more appropriate and this site is now a draw for drug addicts outside our community who break into our homes to feed their addictions. Look at what this has done to our downtown – is this what Council wants for this city? This is a problem of your own making and yet the taxpayers in THIS neighbourhood are the ones who are paying for your lack of direction and control. We moved into this neighbourhood at a time when it had the potential to be something. Owners took pride in the maintenance of their homes and the beautification of their yards. It was right on the edge of a vibrant downtown core and now look at what it has become – a dumping ground for sites and services that have NO place in a residential area. We have done our part, thank you.

City Council has actively taken steps to degrade this neighbourhood because it is a convenient location for services that are not wanted in other, more affluent areas of the city. For example, by granting variances and changing the zoning in the area, the neighbourhood has seen a marked increase in the number of apartments owned by absentee landlords who do nothing to maintain their properties. Furthermore, there are CHILDREN who live and play in this neighbourhood – there are schools and a long-established daycare that regularly walks toddlers past this proposed site. Your planning assumes that this is an acceptable site because the daycare falls JUST outside the 200m exclusion zone (275m by my calculations). These children walk through the neighbourhood EVERY day – is the onus supposed to be on the daycare staff to walk the children in their care down a route that doesn’t take them past a site that will inevitably draw even more drug addicts to the area? The daycare is NOT a fixed site and the children who attend have every right to walk and get the exercise that they need without being concerned for their safety or being exposed to users of a CTS site.

Council needs to address the problem in its ENTIRETY by relocating The Bridges and its ancillary services including a CTS site to a location that does NOT impact the taxpayers who pay your salary. Given the unlikelihood of this ever happening, please reconsider your intent to locate the
CTS site at Oxford Street and find a more suitable location. This neighbourhood has already done its part.

Please include a reading of this letter as part of the official agenda.

Thank you.
Regards,

Geoff Smith
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:35 PM
To: clerks <clerks@cambridge.ca>
Subject: [External] CTS SITE

Simply put, we do not want any CTS sites in and around Oxford Street. We are on Bond Street have been here for 47 years and already have a lot of problems with the bridges.

Signed the Gaspar family.
Good evening,

My name is Sarah Bird and I would like to state my opposition regarding the proposed CTS site at 8 Oxford St.

I am currently employed at Pinewood Heating & Air Conditioning that is located at 8 Oxford St. I have worked here for almost 1 year and have grown to know our neighbours very well. Serval people live here with small children or who are elderly and walk this area on a regular basis. I feel if a CTS site was to be placed here, these people would lose their freedom to be able to walk around their neighbourhood without any worry.

There is also the fear from my neighbours that there would be an increase in foot traffic from the addicts, who are more likely to commit a crime on a larger scale if they are high.

I do believe there needs to be a place where addicts can go where they can seek treatment if needed, just not in a heavily child populated area.

So we stand at Pinewood with our neighbours when we say, NO to a safe injection site!!!

Thank you for your time

Sarah Bird

Pinewood Heating & Air Conditioning
Tel: 519-622-8000
Fax: 519-622-8300
pinewoodair@hotmail.com
Dear Council,

We write you on behalf of Hilborn Pottery Design, located on Park Hill Road in Galt. Hilborn Pottery Design has been operating out of this location for 39 years. We have recently learned of the proposal for a CTS site on Oxford Street. As local business owners, we have several concerns about this proposed location.

First, this site would add to the already high level of trespassing we see on our property. It is not uncommon to have to ask people to leave our property during working hours. It is even more common to find drug paraphernalia/condoms/human waste on our property in the morning. This is already a major issue for our business and raises safety concerns for our employees and customers.

In addition to the concerns related to our business, we are worried about the effect this site could have on the safety and well-being of those in the neighbourhood surrounding this site. We know firsthand the problems associated with being in close proximity to the Bridges. This site would literally be taking the problem from many of these residents’ backyards and adding it to their front yards. We happen to have a long-term employee who lives within a few blocks of the proposed site. We worry for his and his family’s safety, mental health and for their financial wellbeing as this will surely lower their property value.

We hope you reconsider Oxford Street as a location for a future CTS site. A facility like this should not be placed in the middle of a residential neighbourhood, within walking distance of multiple schools and daycares.

Tyler Laycock & Lisa Hilborn-Laycock, Hilborn Pottery Design
Dear Cambridge Council,

My name is Jesse Burt and I work downtown Galt with individuals who use substances.

Council, with over 120 Consumption Sites worldwide, we aren't alone. We have 20 years of evidence here in Canada. CTS prevents HIV, Hep C, Abscesses, Endocarditis, Fatal Overdoses, Emergency Services, Hospital burden and it even saves us taxpayer money. They help end the stigma.

**Why don’t we just open a “Treatment” centre?**

Council decided on Nov 18th to move forward with finding potential locations, since then over 30 people have died in our region. I went to a funeral recently for one of those 30 individuals. One of my coworkers spoke beautifully of the life of a young man who I supported. He was a young father and he had been battling trauma his whole life. The last day I saw him we sat together, and he shared his hurt, his pain, his regrets, his hopes, and his dreams. I had been intensely supporting him so that he could become stable. Once feeling stable and ready he tried to stop using substance. However, the road to recovery is rocky, often in and out of sobriety. This is extremely dangerous. Individuals coming out of treatment and prison are at a much higher risk of overdosing as their tolerance has completely changed. This is why many people I know have died coming out of treatment and jail. Anyone who has ever tired to stop their addiction knows relapse is part of the journey. Let’s keep people alive during their recovery. A CTS, loves people in the most shameful part of their recovery process.

The Public gravitates towards simple solutions to complex problems. We can not “treat” nor criminalize our way out of this Crisis. Let me attempt to break it down for you:

For example, how many people are using unregulated toxic drugs in Cambridge? In the Waterloo Region SIS Feasibility Study done in 2018, it was estimated that we have 4000 injection drug users in our Region. That’s not even including all the drug users who prefer to smoke, snort or orally take their drugs (potentially adding thousands more). Its unclear how many of those thousands of drug users live in Cambridge but based on the heat map of overdoses occurring in downtown Galt, it’s safe to assume it is a high number.

Realistically I don’t think the Region is ready to open thousands of treatment beds this year. Considering we can’t keep up the demand for affordable housing or shelter beds, it makes me
think we won’t be opening thousands of treatment beds anytime soon. Let’s do a rough estimate here:

50 beds is a relatively large treatment/rehab/detox centre. So, if we have 4000 injection users are we ready to open 80 large treatment centres in this Region? How much money is that? How long will that take? Someone is dying every third day in our Region. It’s a crisis.

Also, do you know the current success rate of detox/rehab/treatment centers? How often does a relapse happen? It’s estimated that on average, each person will experience 7 relapses before attaining recovery goals. A CTS is a vital part of that process, to keep people alive to try again.

We must also reconcile the fact that some individuals simply don’t want treatment. They are using to self medicate and don’t want to stop. What about them?

The public doesn’t know the crisis we are dealing with. I would be happy to help educate the public if you would like, please feel free to reach out to me.

**There will be no Consensus:**

As the last delegate pointed out, since the community has taking the decision-making process away from Public Health, Council have become the target. The community has created an impossible situation. The long list of requirements from the Federal Government already makes it difficult to find an ideal location. Yet Council, we have added even more requirement such as Residential proximity and a restriction from Downtown (the highest needs area). We won’t find a location with those criteria. We will also never have the public agree on one location. No matter where the CTS is located we will have people emailing, delegating, and protesting against it. There will be no consensus, not with the public, not with individual Councillors.

That is why we should treat this like the Public Health Crisis that it is. COVID-19 is a great example of a Health Crisis in which government acted with the public’s best interests in mind. They did not wait, delegate, get public feedback, do consultations, vote on matters that were life and death. If we took months/years to vote on if we should wear masks or where the vaccines/testing clinics were located, then thousands more would have died from a preventable death. Just like the Opioid Crisis. This should not be a Municipal decision.

Say yes to the next steps on April 6th.
Thank you Council

Jesse Burt
As a life long resident of Cambridge and a business owner in the city I would like it known that I am 100% against the proposed or any proposed injection site in the city. I don't believe that enabling is a way forward for those struggling with addiction. It is sad to watch individuals in this state and the overall impact they have on the city and it's liveability, for all of us that call it home.

I would support programs that offer help to those who want it, both with addiction issues and the often associated mental health problems that accompany it. These programs should come with expectations from those enrolled and consequences for law breakers. I would support much stronger consequences for the criminals who distribute and profit off this garbage that is being peddled and apparently so easy to access.

Please include my taxpaying, voting opinion and indicate it as a definite NO to any type of enabling injection site. It is against the law and not the best way to help those individuals who need/want help.

Brian Johnson
Dear Mayor & Council:

I am writing today in support of a CTS site within Cambridge.

As a lifelong resident and a small business owner – I believe it is important for us all to lend support to those services and facilities that assist those in need.

While a CTS is not the complete solution to those afflicted with drug addiction – it is the first step that can offer a path to those that are struggling with no place to turn. A CTS site offers a ray of hope to those afflicted and an opportunity to connect to additional services that can assist on their road to recovery.

Rather than harshly judge these individuals we need to change our thinking as a community and accept that they suffer from a disease of addiction.

Fostering this kind of thinking leads to a strong, vibrant, caring and compassionate community that we all can benefit from.

This is why I support a CTS site within Cambridge.

Thank you for your time.

David C. Bennett
Mayor McGarry and council:

What do you think will be provided at the proposed Consumption and Treat Sites being proposed by City Council on Easton or Oxford St. when you hear the phrase “wrap around or treatment services “? While many of us are strong proponents of doing more to help stem the needless deaths from opioid overdose, you may want to do more research before deciding that these are our best option to achieve that.

Break down the service model they use. Clients are welcome to bring illegal drugs of unknown origin into a bright, cheerful clinic where they have the option of having it tested for dangerous additives, but they aren’t restricted from using it, either way. Nor does it matter if they are underaged juveniles or pregnant. If they are a first time user, advice on “safe practices ” will be provided. After they use their drug of choice they will be encouraged, though not obligated to remain in the “chill room” for a brief length of time before being ushered back onto the street armed with as many harm reduction supplies including Naloxone as they want, still under the influence of their illicit drug of choice close to one of the busiest intersections in the region. If they have an adverse reaction, trained medical staff will do whatever is necessary to try to reverse the overdose, but it will sometimes be necessary to transport clients for emergency hospital treatment. Statistically, no one has ever died at a CTS, because it requires a doctor or coroner to declare death. No statistics are kept on clients who have used drugs at a CTS, left, and later died either as a direct result of overdose or misadventure while in an altered state.

For the exorbitant price tag, they also offer first aid for wound and foot management (already available from any local doctor, several clinics including Lang’s, the RAAC clinic on Water St., Public Health at 150 Main St., the mobile Sanguen Health van and our hospital emergency department). They will clean up needle debris around the building which is puzzling since the use is supposed to be happening under supervision inside. (The City of Cambridge already pays for the Ambassador Team and bylaw to clean up hazardous waste around the city. ) information on where to access already existing programs like the Foodbank, Trinity Community Table and 519 Community Collective will be provided to address food insecurity . Information will be provided to more free services directing them affordable housing lists and which all provide frequent opportunity to establish rapport as they turn them back onto the street, perhaps with a tent and sleeping bag. Set your tent up anywhere you like and we’ll send a cleaning crew when you move on. Kind outreach workers will get to know you well, but will be unable to provide services any faster. Of course this is not available 24 hours a day, so ration your drug use accordingly.

Oh, you think access to detox beds, rehabilitation services, ongoing mental health supports or supportive and affordable housing will be provided because you want help getting off the
addiction merry go round? Sorry, the best they can offer is contact information for ever growing wait lists unless you have the private means to pay for that. Are you offended by our two tier system? Please do come back again so we can wash, rinse and repeat.

Absolutely we need to do more to help those struggling with addiction and it won’t be cheap, but then we already spend billions on various programs that have failed to help in significant ways. Far too little has been spent on detox beds, rehabilitation and mental health supports which would more effectively help those currently struggling and more importantly stem the flow of new victims. Taking the only funding model currently being offered is only going to further delay those services. We can keep fishing them out, but we need to prevent them from falling in to begin with.

Carol Thorman
All,

I am writing this email to oppose the City moving ahead with public consultations relating to two possible CTS locations.

I am against these sites and the policies of 'harm reduction' in general.

I feel this is NOT a solution but a death sentence.

We need rehabilitation centres and programs to help the youth of today, not poison them.

We do not give an alcoholic more booze and send them on their way.

Please help the youth of today with proper rehabilitation measures.

Sincerely,

Valerie Johnston
Dear Mayor and Council

Please accept this email as an official reflection of the current status of CTS sites in Galt.

As an East Galt resident (Councillor Adshade's ward), I am concerned about the possible location of a CTS site on Oxford. This goes against anything we as citizens were told at the last meeting of this - that no site would be up in Galt.

Why does the shelter and the CTS sites have to all be in Galt? Oh yes, because of the 'red zones' where the OD's are happening. The reality is, these red zones were created by council by putting The Bridges in the middle of a beautiful part of Ontario and now we are faced with a CTS site 14 minutes away from the core, from schools, from fellow residents and kids. Makes zero sense to me.

It's exhausting following this, and tiring living in a part of the city that gets the shaft. Why not in Preston? Why not in Hespeler? Why is it always Galt?

Easy solution - move the Bridges and build a CTS site closer to the hospital. The addicts get their help, the hospital gets to see this who need assistance right away and the paramedics don't have to drive thru Galt daily to save someone, they'll be closer to the hospital. Makes sense to me, though nothing is an easy fix.

I'm very unhappy that this location on Oxford is even being considered. It's a no brainer to me that this is not even an option.

Regards,
Craig Robertson
Attention to Mayor, council and staff,

I'm so utterly disgusted and disappointed in the two proposed CTS sites despite the overwhelming opposition to any such site by your elected constituents and consultation reports. It is apparent that the residents/tax payers who live in this proposed neighbourhood don't matter - 

It is apparent that the students of GCI, Manchester Public, Pluto Daycare and the Montessori school do not matter.

What can I possibly say, that hasn't already been ignored. Numerous emails, delegations, reports, statistics, public consultations, recommendations, petitions and community feedback.

Many of the residents of Cambridge see a CTS exactly for what it is: a political bandaid with bankers hours.

Angela Galley
Ward 7 Residents
I received a letter in the mail that you are proposing a safe drug consumption site.

The life and soul of our city has been completely drained since introducing the shelter.

Children no longer play outside and doing anything / going anywhere after dark is extremely unsettling with all these drug addicts and bums hanging around.

Our intersections have beggars. Our parks and walkways are littered with “shelters” and passed out drunks. Any personal property that isn’t chained down gets stolen. Historic sites and monuments are almost all tagged with graffiti or vandalized in some way.

PLEASE STOP MAKING CAMBRIDGE THE HOTSPOT!

I am disgusted and I can’t believe you are considering making this even more of a “safe haven” for these kind of people.

Close the homeless shelter down or at least provide minimum wage work for these people such as cleaning parks/walkways/roads.

I grew up in this city and since that shelter was put in our sense of safety and well-being has been completely compromised. I have absolutely zero desire to raise children in this town. As if things aren’t already bad enough, you want to encourage drug addicts to hang out here - a drug consumption site will encourage bums from surrounding areas to migrate here too!

Show me one piece of evidence that safe drug consumption sites actually help these people get clean and turn their lives around.

Because it can’t be tracked or proven.
You are so eager to help the people harming our communities - yet ignore the people who pay their taxes and raise families here and actually help the community flourish.

I am shocked this is even up for debate. STOP HELPING THE HOMELESS THEY DIDN'T GET THAT WAY BY ACCIDENT! THEY MADE A LONG SERIES OF BAD DECISIONS AND BURNED ALL THEIR BRIDGES WITH FRIENDS/FAMILY - THAT IS WHY THEY ARE WHERE THEY ARE! It doesn't happen overnight! If they were decent people they would have friends/family to lean on.

Why is that so hard to understand.

Why do you insist of helping them so much? Efforts must be made to clean up our community - not continue to destroy it.

Signed,

Brandon Lee
Good Day Nicholas

I am appalled that City of Cambridge is considering a supervised drug site. This is not what this City needs. Council talks about downtown rejuvination and this is what you come up with. I was recently downtown Galt and couldn't believe how many of these homeless people were hanging out downtown. My wife and I felt very uneasy. The foul language, people begging for money, it was disgusting. My daughter was downtown to use the bank machine the evening before and found one of these derelict people fixing their bicycle inside where the BMO bank machine was. She was afraid so she had to go to another bank. If you want to attract people and business to downtown you have got to get rid of these people from the downtown area. Cambridge is blessed to have a riverfront that should be booming with business and cafes and restaurants. Take a look at other towns and cities on waterfront and learn from them. Look at Paris. Beautiful town with a bustling downtown and no homeless people allowed. Get rid of these people begging at every stop light. What a terrible distraction for a City. You will never attract business or tourism to the downtown with type of people. No body wants to be near them. The Bridges needs to go. The concept is great but the location is terrible. And now you want to add a consumption site to attract more drug users. Shame on City Council. There are so many other things this City needs that serve the majority not the minority. Spend some money cleaning up the litter in this City. It is disgusting. When I come off 401 and stop at a light and look at all the litter it really does not make me proud of the City I live in. How do you think visitors feel. There are so many simple things that can be done to beautify this City again. It just takes some physical work which no one seems to want to do anymore. Employees just want that paycheque. This City used to be beautiful and a place to be proud of but not anymore. Clean up this City and make the residents proud of our City, don't keep adding to the problem.

Please pass this email along to other Council Members and the Mayor

Ron McKnight
Please include this letter in the agenda regarding item #21-121(CRS)

As a tax paying citizen property owner and parent I plead with you to not have a CTS in our city. The success rates which you have stated are not accurate in fact a CTS will not help the crime in our already ruin city or reduce the opioid crisis that’s happening. The only thing that can help is holding criminals accountable for their actions with arrest and detainment. Users need punishment not enabling. If they choose to want treatment then that should be available however most users seek to destroy themselves and anyone who gets in their way. Please do not allow this in our city I beg you. It will destroy Cambridge.

Tammy Palfreyman
My name is Gord Flett and I have been a lifelong resident of Cambridge all of my 56 yr life. I'm emailing you all my opposition to any CTS sites anywhere in Cambridge. I speak from my own experience of being addicted to opioids for more than 10yrs and have seeked out help and treatment of all kinds. There is already several facilities that offer treatment to addicts that WANT help. Suboxone is considered the number one treatment available to get off these street drugs and is now available to prescribe from family doctors/nurse practionener in Ontario and available at several other locations in our cities downtown core. Its maintains addicts at a safe dose and allows addicts to live a normal life while being monitored by trained professionals. Its also 6 times safer then methadone regarding overdose. Promoting programs like this is much safer then enabling addicts to continue putting toxic drugs into needles and injecting themselves. Not to mention its covered under OHIP, most drug plans, ODSP and OW. Tell me how much this would reduce crime in Cambridge?? Addicts wouldnt need to steal to feed there addiction. Providing CTS sites is just prolonging drug addiction and wasting useful resources that could be better spent on other programs that actually help people get off drugs. This is where our leaders need to focus attention on. I hope all that receive this email read it and are welcome to share at any city hall meetings or agendas. Can you please add my email to the agenda and have it recorded in the minutes of the meeting April 6,2021.

Thank You,

Gord Flett
one thing i believe we can all agree on is that we have an opioid crisis. anyone with a drug
addiction should have the right and access to treatment if they choose. i am not opposed to that. i
live 1 block from the proposed site on oxford and 2 1/2 blocks from the easton street site. i also
work 1 block from my residence. i see a lot. i see something everyday. after listening to the
council meeting march 30 i heard many people in my neighborhood having the same concerns
and dealing with the same criminal activity that takes place here. i see drug deals on the corner of
hopeton and samuelson street. i have drug users on my property and someone has tried to enter
my home. i have been yelled at and threatened on main street more than once. i no longer use the
trails that i love. i do not feel comfortable going on my own. i no longer walk or ride my bike to the
market. i drive. i am nearing retirement and live alone. this is my reality. i no longer feel safe in my
front yard. both sites are a short walk from schools as council is aware. there has to be a better
solution. maybe we need to fund the police more to get the drug dealers off the street and maybe
we need to ensure judges are enforcing stricter penalties. maybe it needs to be closer to the
bridges where the need seems to be. in my opinion even with the CTS site the drug dealers and
the pushers will still be here. let's not give them young school age children to pray on and recruit

Joyce E Meissner
Dear Clerks and Council,

I plead for you to hear from those that are affected in your community by the lack of consumption and treatment services in Cambridge. Folks go to substances when there are no alternatives for support to cope with the state of the world. The need to cope has exponentially increased during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. People are trying to get through losses of loved ones, jobs, homes and any sense of a normal life. Have you noticed yourself having more coffee? Have you been regularly enjoying a beer or a glass of wine with dinner to take the edge off? Have you reached out for additional mental health services for you or a loved one? You're coping the best way you know how, and you should allow others to do the same without a death sentence.

Lives are being lost while you dance around which location will be consulted to potentially host life saving services. Do not think about the comfortability of citizens that can destress through a legal substance like coffee, alcohol, cannabis and therapy. Think of the comfortability of citizens that are dying because their coping mechanism is a different substance, a stronger one. Evidence shows that when people that use substances have access to safe consumption sites and safe supply that they will utilize it. Have you ever been to a pub or bar? Then you have been to a safe consumption and supply distribution centre. You know where the substance has come from, it is a safe supply, there is someone to watch out for overindulgence, the bartender.

You need to work from a harm reduction model, we know that people use drugs no matter the laws surrounding. We know that the substances are not regulated and therefore can be poisonous. We know that substances are addicting and give some temporary relief to physical and mental pain. What we are asking for you as our Clerks and Councillors is to represent the voices of the dead. My close family friend passed away in February due to an overdose, he was using alone and we are unsure about the safety of the substance. Had he been able to access a safe consumption site they could have done 2 things to prevent our Noah's death: test his supply and administer Nalaxone if the use went wrong. Noah was a beautiful caring young man that was riddled by trauma and using substances helped him cope. Had Noah been at a safe consumption site someone could have tried to save him and he would not have had to die alone. Unfortunately this is not my first experience of losing a loved one to substances, I lost my first friend to substance use at 19 years old. If my friend had access to a safe consumption site him and his friend that passed away beside him would be alive.

I wish my friends could tell you that a safe consumption site saved their lives, they can't but future substance users could.
Please,

Abigail Willms

Graduate of the University of Waterloo

Honours BA in Gender and Social Justice Studies

Minor in Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies

Citizen of Waterloo Region (by choice)
From a parent in the trenches READ THIS AND STOP THIS INSANITY OF AN INJECTION SITE!

My soon to be 24 year old granddaughter is addicted to street drugs. She was born addicted and she suffers from kidney failure, blindness, seizures. At the present she is approximately 75-80 lbs. She got herself clean in 2015 and relapsed after the pandemic shut down. She is about to loose her appartment and will be homeless. She has gone to the hospital, family doctor and has called the police to say she was sexually assaulted. It is her opinion that nobody took her serious or cared enough to help her. So I ask, if she was not able to get help from our professionals, what makes you think that anybody will get help from a injection site? All she was asking for is to have a professional to speak with her in person one on one, on a regular basis. Now I sit here waiting for that dreaded call while our city leaders spend more time pursuing a site that would only further add to her suffering, where there is no mental health or addiction treatment available to her. We need treatment, I do not want my granddaughter to die. 😢

Robin Thomas
Please include this letter in the agenda regarding item #21-121(CRS)

Dear Mayor

You haven't made the best choices for our city. I beg you to please make just one right decision for the people of Cambridge. You see I live here and

I miss the days when I could walk

freely downtown or by the river. Now we're watching for needles or being begged or chased for money As a tax paying citizen, property owner and parent I plead with you to not have a CTS in our city. The success rates which you have stated are not accurate in fact a CTS will not help the crime in our already run down city or reduce the opioid crisis that's happening. The only thing that can help is holding criminals accountable for their actions. Our children can no longer enjoy the freedom of walking trails as the homeless camps and opioid users run rampant everywhere and we fear for our safety. You hand out needles with all your programs and they are found scattered from one side of town to another a Injection site does not solve this ask other cities it continues the same problems. Garbage, waste, crime and a wasted tax payers injection site amongst our safe law abiding citizens. Do not allow this in our city. It will be a big white elephant!

Tammy Palfreyman
Hello There,

My name is Kayleigh Cadenhead and I am a resident and homeowner in Cambridge. I am emailing as I have been made aware that Cambridge just had a council meeting last week in regards to a possible CTS site near downtown Galt. I was made aware of this through a campaign to prevent this from happening organized by some of my neighbour's. While I do not agree with them I am happy they tried to involve me as it gives me an opportunity to be made aware of this possible opening.

I am thrilled that Cambridge is taking more steps towards helping out homeless and disenfranchised population. As a person who works closely with the public I understand how important sites like this are to our population and the physical and mental health of those needing to use the services. I was very upset by the pushback that you have been receiving in regards to this.

Sites like this as I'm sure you know are proven to help with drug and substance abuse. Stats show areas that contain these sites have a lower population of homeless and drug users present on the streets. I believe much of what the public thinks happens as a result of these types of sites is misinformation at its best and complete falsehoods at its worst.

Junkies and drug users do not use these sites to buy, traffic or consume drugs, they can do that anywhere and they already do. These sites do not encourage homelessness or drug addiction, they assist in not perpetuating both. Limiting homeless populations resources doesn't magically make them go away, it increases the likelihood of them not getting on their feet, and perpetuates the cycle.

I would love to know of any resources you may have that I can use to assist in educating the public as well as making the voice of those who approve of these sites heard. I am very disappointed I wasn't aware of this before the last council meeting and want to do my part to see Cambridge make this much needed resources a reality.

Thank you so much for your help and assistance.

Regards,

Kayleigh Cadenhead
Hi there. I want to express my view points on the City Council meeting last night in regard to the CTS proposed site.

First and foremost, I have to voice my concern that I disagree with those that are in favour of having a site of such in the City of Cambridge. My reasoning follows:

1. The council members and the public that are in favour of a proposed site in Cambridge I believe are only looking at the “death by overdose” portion of this. Yes, we are losing lives because of opioid overdose causing death. However – having a site is not going to STOP death caused by this, it is merely going to be a place for those suffering from this disease to go somewhere that they are offered “free” supplies.

2. Most addicts do NOT care where they get their next dose of drugs. They care that they GET IT.

3. Many addicts are not homeless, as was mentioned by many of you in the meeting last night. Having lived with an addict I know right now that they would not travel to a CTS site to make sure they are doing it safely. They DON’T CARE. They ARE NOT thinking that they may overdose. They do NOT care if they are hurting themselves or their loved ones. They simply want to get the fix. These people are doing this in their homes, their parents homes – not thinking that “oh I should go to the CTS location so that I am safe.”

4. I do not see where there is “treatment” offered at a CTS site, other than the support workers speaking with them about POSSIBLE options that are available. As one of the councilors mentioned “an addict has to WANT the help, they can’t be forced into it”.

5. I have stated that putting the money and time into a remote location similar to “TEEN RANCH” in the London area to learn life skills, work on the land, and learn about addiction and the brain. This is what we need. Even Homewood in Guelph is NOT the place for an addict. You go in there on a Monday and you are allowed to go off property in a couple of days, go home for the weekend, etc. What is this teaching in rehabilitation of an addict? NOTHING. They simply see their friends and have the temptations they once had. Homewood is a money making rehab center that drains insurance companies and finances of loved ones that are trying to get help for their addict loved one.

6. It takes at least 190 days to change one's brain. The brains of addicts have to heal – it isn’t going to happen in a CTS site or in a 5 week rehab
center. It is going to take longer. We need to invest in Rehabilitation that an addict has to STAY and HEAL. If they get to the point that they want help, they need to be given a place to go for it and get better.

7. For those in favour of a CTS site in the city? Would you be in favour if it was next door to you? Perhaps those in favour are feeling this way because it is away from them, personally. I agree that we have to help our community as we do care. But this is NOT showing we care. We have many alcoholics in our community as well but do we have a spot for them to go and drink till they are out of control and make sure they don’t leave and get hurt? No!

8. Going to a CTS site and injecting “safely” and waiting for 15 minutes afterwards to make sure they aren’t going to OD? Seriously? What is to say they aren’t going to walk down the street high and inject again, off site? Again, I don’t think any one that is voicing their opinion really understands an addict and that they are NOT safe ANYWHERE when they are performing their need.

9. What I do believe is that we need to make our local Police and Doctors more accountable. The doctors are prescribing these meds without doing due diligence. An addict can go various walk in clinics and get a prescription for these opioids, then go to another. I know seniors that are on welfare that get these prescriptions and sell them because it is extra money. They go to the Dr and say they have terrible back pain. The Dr writes a script and here we go. Those in need purchase from these people and keep the seniors with a bit of extra income. THIS is happening in our city – for a fact! The police need to charge more people with possession. Reporting dealers of all levels to police and nothing getting done is not the answer. They are only interested in the big dealers. They have to get the small ones too as they are the ones that are getting the drugs out to these people. I have given the police names, license plate #’s, addresses, etc of those selling opioids and their answer to me “Did you see the actual drugs?” Of course I didn’t, but I know for fact they are dealers. Again I was told “Nothing we can do, sorry”. Seriously? Set up undercover and watch the traffic coming and going. The big dealers sit back and reap the benefits. There also needs to be a policy in place that those getting prescribed these opioids are in a database with records kept throughout the province.

10. Whether this proposed site is financed by the province or not, this is a waste of money and should be put into funding for a long term rehab center.
11. On a final note. I found it quite rude that one councilor called out the other for mentioning a name in their “comments”, but it was ok for them to mention it on their own. Terrible, embarrassing and uncalled for.

Sherry
As a very concerned resident of Cambridge I am not in favor of a SIS facility in our city. I am deeply concerned about the proposed sites chosen by you. These areas are very residential close to schools lots of children and Seniors. These facilities cannot and do not belong in any residential areas. We the residents should not be subject to this and the crime that comes with them. I live on Jarvis St one street over from Easton St. this is a very big concern of mine and the surrounding neighborhood. Most of the residents own their homes and work very hard to keep them. Why should the hard working tax payers be prisoners in their own homes, not to mention this will lower the value of our homes how is this fair. You seriously need to reconsider these areas for a facility like this. It is you're job and duty to protect the residents of Cambridge and right now we don't feel you are , you have 2 very concerned neighborhoods. I find it hard to believe that these 2 locations are you're only choses.

I am a very concerned born and raised resident of Cambridge and I know that I can speak for many residents here as well. We have made it perfectly clear that we do not want an injection site in our city. We are not ENABLERS and that is exactly what these sites are. These people need help they don't need to go to some supervised place to get them high they need rehab and detox centres they need to be in the hospital where they can get this help. You the City of Cambridge Mayor and Councilors say it is you're duty and job to protect the residents of Cambridge but what I see is you are just a bunch of enablers. What I heard throughout this meeting was that we have to keep these people alive so that they can receive help. This is an acknowledgement that there isn't enough help for them. They can shoot up anywhere any time but have to wait months for rehab, so I would support money being poured into DETOX AND REHAB. Any Safe Injection Site is just a bandaid to this problem it is the easy route . We should not follow the example of other cities and take a smarter path to cure the problem which would be DETOX AND REHAB. You have to seriously reconsider putting any SAFE INJECTION SITE into any residential area in this City. You promised the retailers of the downtown core that you would not put a Safe Injection Site there. How can you consider this red zone to be any more important than long term residents in the small band around it. When you have lived in a city like Galt for you're entire life or if you have just moved here no one can conceive how their elected representatives could even consider putting a Safe injection Site in their residential neighborhood. It de values our homes which we worked so hard for and puts many other fears in people whether they are founded in fact or not and all the education in the world will not change this.

A very concerned resident

Christine Carey
Dear Councillors,

I am writing to you today to urge that you reconsider the proposed locations of the safe injection sites in Cambridge, namely Easton st and Oxford st.

A recent report published by the Alberta Government ("Impact: A socio-economic review of supervised consumption sites in Alberta", 2020) has highlighted safety implications and a large socio-economic impact on the areas where injection sites are situated. Notable findings of concern include:

- Increased death rates near the safe injection site locations;
- Increased opioid-related calls for emergency medical services in the immediate vicinity following the opening of the sites;
- Increased crime, as measured by police calls for service, in the immediate vicinity; and,
- Increased amounts of needle debris and other drug-related paraphernalia being discarded in the vicinity of the sites.

Safe injection sites may provide a certain level of safety and security for those that require the services of the sites, but at what cost to the surrounding residents? The addition of a safe injection site within the vicinity of residential housing is an injustice to the citizens living there.

For example, my mother, a single woman in her late 50’s, currently resides on Easton St. She regularly works more than 40 hours a week to make ends meet. Her rental unit on Easton St. is one of very few she would be able to afford, living on her own, and she does not have the means to move or rent elsewhere in today’s spiraling rental market. The addition of a safe injection site a few doors down from her will jeopardize her safety and security, along with the other elderly residents on the street.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed locations for these safe injection sites. It would be wholly irresponsible and unjust to place them in residential areas. Cambridge is a good-sized city and I am certain there are other locations better suited to safe injection sites that would minimize the negative socio-economic impact these services impart. In addition to providing a safer experience for users, safe injection sites near the Bridges, the hospital, a police station, or an ambulance dispatcher would limit the concerning findings from the Government of Alberta report and provide the needed sense of security for the residents of Cambridge.

Please write back to let me know what you are doing to ensure these important recommendations are taken into consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Symara Cyr
Hello,

My name is Prateek Kumar and I am the owner of a small business which opened in downtown Cambridge in February, 2021. I have recently come to know that there are plans to have an "Injection Site". I urge you all to reconsider this as it will only deteriorate the current homelessness and drug addict issues in the core.

As I am typing this, there is a homeless person out in the street screaming obscenities at everyone. It has been 15 minutes and he is still at it. People are scared to walk down the street, this in turn is affecting all the business on Main st. Having an injection site nearby the core will attract more drug addicts and push away potential customers. It is already difficult to get new business and people to come down town, this injection site will be the final push that will drive out current business.

Thank you,

Prateek Kumar,

SimplyFixIT
While reading about what a CTS provides, I was shocked to find out that Consumption, Treatment Site does not provide the treatment that has been carefully implied by some people involved with this project. There certainly is consumption, and lots of it as ANYONE can enter during open hours although I would hope the amount of visits per day is regulated. But, if it is then these same users will simply find it if they want it which almost reverses the idea of having it in the first place. Treatment, does not mean treatment in the way of rehab, detox or any programs of that nature. What I have read is the treatment is only to do with helping with overdoses. I understand the need for that but it has been implied and assumed the treatment would be in the way of prevention, but it is not.

Typically these sites are open 7 days a week from 11am to 7pm, that could obviously change per location but due to this issue it would be assumed that users entering multiple times a day will remain in the area as long as it is open which means the Easton St proposed site would see a large increase of people who are high, in the vicinity of a grocery store which already has its share of trouble as it is now. Also an elementary school between the site and a tent city along the tracks which are already used as a route in the area. Not to mention the residences in the area with lots of children who will no longer be able to play outside if an adult can not accompany them, and that includes their own back yards.

So it sounds like I am now being driven by fear, as some councilors stated, and I would have to agree as I know first hand what people are capable of when high on hard drugs. They are not in control of themselves which is a known fact as this statement is used in convictions of crimes and accidents committed while under the influence.

What was being said regarding the citizens requiring education to change our minds, I can tell you that all the education you can try and ram into our minds will not change a single thing when we find someone on our property trying to steal something or intimidate someone or God forbid, harm someone. And before that is dismissed as hearsay, remember that someone who is high is not in control. They are actually committing a crime just doing the drugs. Except that a site like this eliminates any drug crimes at all.

So for those who think it will be ok to put it in a residential area and say that education will make it ok, I want to hear an answer to this question. Would you be ok with this CTS being in your neighbourhood, but don’t forget. You will be educated so there can’t possibly be any issues due to any of this.

I am kind of outraged simply by the name someone has given this as in a CTS. The name implies it is there to help and try to prevent using but it in fact, has nothing to do with that. Call it what it is, an SIS. Safe injection site which is only enabling addicts to use safe drugs and to hopefully stop overdoses by individuals who are alone as it is reported that is how most deaths occur as there is no one there to call for help.

During the meeting, it was also mentioned that this site is needed because you can’t force someone into rehab. That is agreed to a point but, if I commit a crime and get convicted, I must do the time. Why is this now different for drug use, people caught with drugs used to get charged and many went to jail. The interim step would be to hold them in a hospital until they are past the withdrawal stage and then dealt with, but not allowed to sign themselves out after 72hrs. That is ridiculous as they are still under the influence at that point.

The obvious issue must be dealt with and that is prevention. Even though these sites provide a safer atmosphere, it is also keeping them high with an endless supply so why would any of them want to quit. Many do want to quit but simply can’t. These sites keep an addict, addicted and that alone can kill them in the end from health issues even without an overdose. I say endless supply because should a site be created, It can not be removed correct?

I did not mention Oxford St location because The Mayor made it very clear they will not put a site within the 500m radius of the core which it is so it was obviously just included to make it look like there were options.

So why would we not be looking to put this in an industrial area like out near Toyota in the business park. A direct bus line could be created from the core area out to a site during open hours but it would not be near children and residents.

Regards

Gary Staveley
Hello Council,

My name is Shane Outridge and I moved to Cambridge about a year and a half ago. I was drawn to the area by the historical beauty of galt, the parks, and the many great family-owned restaurants. Oh, and how could I forget the Grand River. Upon moving to Cambridge I noticed a darker side of the city, one plagued with addiction and mental health struggles.

Last week I heard there was discussion of bringing a CTS site to Cambridge near to my home. I was shocked and horrified. I am STRONGLY opposed to the idea of this “treatment” centre that allows users to fuel each others’ addictions. In March of 2020, Alberta Health formed a committee to review the province’s safe consumption sites. The review identified a number of concerns including increased needle debris, crime and social disorder in the area. In addition, the proposed locations are very close to schools and residential areas. This may normalize children to drug use and pose a public safety risk. I don’t believe there is any location in Cambridge where such a facility makes sense, but especially the current proposed sites.

I hope the strong community opposition to this topic in Cambridge does not fall on deaf ears. The first CTS site in Ontario opened just over 3 years ago. At the very least, we should be waiting for further evidence on the effectiveness of such a bold public health strategy in the province. The opioid epidemic is real, and the good people of Cambridge need access to proper treatment in the form of reduced waitlists to rehab and therapy; not band-aid solutions to keep supporting their use while they wait for such services.

Thank you.
Citizens for Cambridge voice strong support for essential, lifesaving Consumption and Treatment Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2020 – Citizens for Cambridge Board of Directors is reaffirming its unwavering support for a Consumption and Treatment Site (CTS) within our city. We endorse a staff report that the city moves forward with a robust process to address community concerns while selecting a site for a much-needed health clinic to help deal with the Opioid Crisis gripping our province.

Recently it was revealed that Ontario saw a 59% spike in overdoses last year. This is a very real and very deadly public health crisis that is not unique to our community.

Waterloo Region had its worst year on record for deadly overdoses in 2020 with 98 lives lost. Almost half of these were from Cambridge which has the highest per capita overdose call rate in the Region.

That is nearly 50 loved ones who could have been saved from a toxic drug supply and provided the clinical care and offer of treatment to climb out of addiction with a Consumption and Treatment facility.

“We strongly implore Cambridge City Council to do the right thing. We cannot afford to wait any longer. People are dying and will continue to die if we do not move forward quickly with this,” said Keith Rivers, Citizens for Cambridge. “It’s time to move on from the stigma and fear in the public sphere and online. What we are doing is not working. We must take action to reduce public drug consumption, 911 calls and overdose deaths. These are fellow citizens who need accessible health care and constant touch points to overcome addiction and we have a chance to offer that with a CTS, as so many other communities have.”

Kitchener has reversed 238 overdoses since opening the Consumption and Treatment site on 150 Duke St.

Beyond the human impact, that is 238 times where a three-tiered 911 response was not needed. That is 238 times where hospitalization was not needed.

“For those making the argument that tax dollars should not be funneled into harm reduction and treatment sites, it is well noted that in addition to saving lives, the CTS model can be reliably expected to reduce the burden opioid addiction places on the taxpayer” said Randy Sa’d, Citizens for Cambridge. “These sites help to keep those struggling with addiction out of our ambulances, hospitals, courtrooms, and jails. Preventing overdoses and the spread of blood borne illnesses will free up much needed healthcare resources.”

To the Citizens for Cambridge group, choosing a CTS location is a major step in the right direction. We now have 3 years of local evidence from CTS sites in Guelph and Kitchener demonstrating that fears about the impact on surrounding businesses, residences and community are ill-founded when a CTS is set up and managed effectively.
“The CTS performs a critical role as a gateway to treatment” said Dan Clements, Citizens for Cambridge. “We can’t force people into treatment. But we can guide them to treatment using the power of personal relationships, developed with specialized support staff who themselves have lived experience”

Not only will a CTS help save human lives and tax dollars, but it will also help reduce crime and debris in our communities; something those in opposition to a CTS are generally concerned about.

We fully support the creation of a Consumption and Treatment facility within our city. Through this endorsement, we hope we can dispel some of the misinformation, stigma and hate out there.

Media contact:

Keith Rivers, info@citizensforcambridge.org (226) 929-5325
March 30, 2021

City of Cambridge Council
City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street PO Box 669 Cambridge, ON, N1R 5W8
Via email to council@cambridge.ca and copy to clerks@cambridge.ca

Dear Mayor Kathryn McGarry and Members of Council,

Re: Consumption Treatment Sites (CTS) should Locate Outside of Galt Core Area

We kindly request that the City not consider the downtown Galt core or surrounding area for a Consumption Treatment Site location. Specifically, we ask that the 8 Oxford Street location not be considered.

After years of high commercial vacancies, below target levels of employment and population decline, and near complete halt on the economy and revitalization during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic this past year; a CTS in or near the Galt core area of Cambridge would negatively impact the ability to continue to attract the additional companies and residents necessary to create a vibrant core. We are very concerned with the attraction of unwanted persons and safe zones for illegal activities surrounding a CTS within, and in close proximity to, Cambridge’s core area.

A thorough site selection and evaluation process should be completed for the two locations currently proposed (15 Easton Street and 8 Oxford Street), and consider the impact to surrounding property uses, property owners, and visitors to Cambridge. We trust this process is including input from the Region of Waterloo, Public Health, the Downtown Cambridge BIA, the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, advisory committees and citizen groups. Finally, we strongly encourage Council to include a long-term prevention plan and a zero-tolerance policy for unwanted persons surrounding any CTS, in efforts to address this significant health issue in our community.

Yours Truly,

Scott Higgins
President, HIP Developments Inc.

Joel Doherty
Vice President, Real Estate & Development

cc. Downtown Cambridge BIA info@downtowncambridgebia.ca
To the Mayor of Cambridge Ontario,

I am a mother of 2 boys and leaving on Bond Street since 2008.

2 years ago my boys work hard and save there money to buy two brand new bicycles.

Those 2 bicycles get stolen from my lock shed few weeks after. My boys did not came back at my house for almost 2 years as they were not feeling save anymore and now they are starting to come back so I am really AGAINST that two CTS site on 15 Easton and 8 Oxford.

That wont make them feel same again anymore that is for sure. I dont think I need to tell how I feel ABOUT THAT right!!!!

Please ensure to have my letter included in the agenda for the council meeting scheduled on Tuesday March 30th.

Thank you and hope it reach you well

Johanne Carbonneau
To Whom it might concern,

First let me start by saying I have lived in the Oxford St. neighbourhood all my life, I can't comprehend how this is even an option! This close community is absolutely devastated by this news. Please keep in mind that most of the residents that live in the area are elderly and can't send an email to express their concerns. The fact that this was only brought up to the neighbourhood's attention now.. is absolutely disrespectful!
The CTS site would be located right in the middle of a residential area. How does that make any sense!? Would you want to have the CTS site right beside your house?? Not to mention the 2 very well known daycares (Pluto Daycare & Montessori Daycare) that would be only meters away. Would you want your kids to go to these 2 daycares?? As well as a nearby grade school (again..only meters away) where there will be lots of children around all day long. Would like it if this was your child’s school?? I understand that these sites are needed, but please don't put one up in this family oriented neighbourhood. Not in a residential area! It's not right!

A very concerned resident.
Kelly
April 6, 2021

Dear Mayor McGarry and City Councillors:

I am writing to you today to express my support for a Consumption and Treatment Site in the City of Cambridge. Please include my letter as part of the official records for any future meetings on this topic.

I am a resident of Cambridge. I am also a social worker and PhD student. Through these roles, I am aware of the immense benefits of the existing CTSs in other cities across Ontario and Canada, the most significant of which is the saving of lives. Since the Kitchener CTS became operational in 2019, 248 overdoses have been reversed. Had this CTS not been open, many, perhaps all, of these overdoses would have been fatal. As well, since Vancouver’s InSite clinic opened in 2003, there have been over 6000 successful overdose interventions within that clinic and no deaths.

I am aware of course, of the growing concerns within Cambridge over the past number of years around increased crime and discarded needles and drug paraphernalia, and arguments have been made that a CTS will add to these issues. In fact, the opposite is true. Not only do CTSs keep individuals struggling with substance use safer, they enhance the wellbeing of the larger community. In 2019, Guelph mayor, Cam Guthrie, noted the following in regards to that city’s CTS: “People are getting help to lift themselves out of addictions and other related health concerns. Lives are being saved... Crime in the neighbourhood hasn’t skyrocketed. Emergency room departments are not being abused... discarded needle complaints to my office in parks and laneways have decreased.”

In short, CTSs save lives and make communities safer for everyone. While people may not agree with or understand why individuals use drugs, I would hope that you and City Councillors can agree that those who struggle with substance use issues are human beings who deserve access to safe, accessible, and evidence-based care. A CTS in Cambridge would be one essential means of supporting some of the city’s most vulnerable individuals, and beginning to address the ongoing opioid crisis.

Sincerely,

Meredith Berrouard, BSW, MSW, PhD Student
Cambridge Resident
To: The Mayor and City Council

RE: Heritage Assessment - 18 Tannery Street - Salvation Army Citadel

Mayor and Councillors, Under the Ontario Heritage Act, municipalities can pass bylaws to formally designate properties of cultural heritage value or interest.

I do not own 18 Tannery Street in Cambridge, but as a third party I believe that this particular property has cultural heritage value sufficient to warrant designation.

The Salvation Army Citadel is listed on the City’s Heritage Register as a property of interest.

I am submitting a letter to Council requesting that they direct staff to undertake research on the property to determine if the property meets enough criteria under Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act to warrant designation.

I look forward to receiving the staff’s recommendation report to Council for a decision on designation.

Paul Langan

226-505-7605
March 30, 2021

Dear Cambridge City Council,

Please include the following letter in the upcoming council meeting scheduled for March 30th, 2021:

As residents of Waterloo region and local faith leaders, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you our support for the proposed CTS locations. We join with other Christian leaders who believe that living out our faith includes supporting and contributing to a world where the sacredness of all life is affirmed. Our faith teaches us to build communities where those most marginalized in society are offered the same hospitality, healing, and care that Jesus taught in his ministry. In the wake of a drug poisoning epidemic that has taken far too many lives, we see CTS as a modern day revelation of the life-giving and life-sustaining Spirit of Christ in this world. Especially given the success with such sites in Kitchener and elsewhere.

Given the ability for CTS to deliver much-needed life saving resources, we hope that the city of Cambridge will not only support the proposed locations of 15 Easton St and 8 Oxford St, but will work to create a city and Region that is committed to combating the stigma that hurts people who use drugs.

Blessings on your deliberations.

Yours in faith,

Rev Joe Gaspar, Rev. Heather Power
March 29, 2021

To the Mayor and Councillors of Cambridge

We learned of the two sites chosen for a possible CTS site on the 6:00 news, no notification about the choice of site via mail, flyer or posted sign at the site by the city.

Yes, there is a problem with drugs in Cambridge. However, drug use is illegal and as much as we have sympathy for people who are addicted. Allowing a standalone taxpayer funded site is sending the wrong message to users.

Council did not want this CTS site in the core areas, the same reasoning should apply for all areas and neighbourhoods in the city. Before you dismiss this as NIMBYism, how may Councillors and Advocates can honestly say they would welcome one in their immediate neighbourhood.

One site chosen is in close proximity to 3 daycares, 2 schools, a homeless shelter and a youth emergency shelter.

There are already problems in the area with local addicts, the problems do not need to be compounded by drawing addicts from the Preston and Hespeler areas along with their suppliers.

Two final thoughts - Instead of funding a stand-alone site spend the money on shutting down the supply of illegal drugs.

- If a CTS site is truly needed, put it at a site that taxpayers already fund and where overdoses end up- at the Hospital (it’s reasonably central and on a bus route).

In closing, we request that neither site be funded or approved by council.

Yours truly

Ron and Barbara Rogers
To the Mayor and members of Cambridge City Council,

ACCKWA strongly supports the immediate need for demonstrated leadership in decision-making to facilitate additional emergency / urgent supports to individuals in need of Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) in Cambridge.

The best time to implement a CTS was in 2019, subsequent to the completion of the 2018 Consumption and Treatment Services Study in Waterloo Region. Since that time, in 2019, 105 individuals lost their lives due to overdose. In 2020, this number rose to 148 people, a 41% increase that represents increasing loss, harm and grief in our community. As an Executive Director of an organization that provides some harm reduction services, I receive an updated coroner’s report from Office of Chief Coroner for Ontario every single month. Despite the persistence in overdose deaths, despite knowing overdoses are increasing every year, Cambridge has failed to bring in additional life-saving services in the form of Consumption and Treatment Services, avoiding preventable deaths.

I have grave concerns about the misinformation, hate speech, and derailing tactics that individuals and organizations opposed to harm reduction and upholding human rights have engaged in at City Council. Some facts which have been ignored in the CTS process to date include the fact that ongoing opioid epidemic was an existing national crisis prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2017, the failure to prevent overdoses contributed to life expectancy in Canada failing to increase annually for the first time in 40 years. CTS in Kitchener has been successfully implemented in Kitchener without adverse impacts on the surrounding neighbourhood, increases in crime rates, and with neighbourhood / surrounding community support.

Prior Cambridge CTS-related discussions have involved conversations where individuals have refused suggestions for implementing CTS in downtown Galt, while insisting on forced treatment as an appropriate option for individuals challenged by substance use. Implementation of local inpatient addiction treatment services involved similar rejection of any suggested Cambridge locations as inappropriate. Current deliberations rejecting the two proposed Cambridge CTS options appear to be brought forth in the same vein, rejecting locations that were decided upon to avoid the downtown core. Locally several Cambridge-based online groups, have engaged in dehumanizing rhetoric and brought these despicable sentiments to council.

I hope Cambridge council votes today to prioritize and affirm the human rights of residents who are people who use drugs, as the people most directly affected by substance use and the opioid crisis. People who use drugs should be the most important participants to provide their input into an expedited process determining what location in Cambridge provides them with accessible life-saving healthcare, social and community services they need to stay alive, experience compassion, safety, and engage with multiple supports.

Sincerely,

Ruth Cameron, MA CCRA, Doctoral student
Executive Director, The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area
March 25, 2021

RE: Cambridge Consumption and Treatment Services Community Consultation and Site Identification

Mayor McGarry and Cambridge City Council,

As the Board of Directors of an organization that provides emergency shelter and other programs and services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Cambridge, our staff at The Bridges deal daily with the fallout of the opioid crisis in our community. The addition of toxic substances to the supply of illicit drugs has increased the numbers of overdoses and overdose-related deaths to all-time highs.

Regardless of their use of substances, every person residing at The Bridges is someone’s mother or father, sister, or brother, and increasingly, someone’s grandmother or grandfather. Surely, we can do a better job as a community to keep them safe.

We endorse the selection of a site for consumption and treatment services in Cambridge and urge Council to act as quickly as possible to complete the process to identify a preferred site, engage the community in consultation, and choose an agency to run the centre. There is ample research to show that consumption and treatment sites save lives and provide opportunities for those using substances to connect with healthcare, housing, and addiction services.

The opioid crisis has become a public health emergency in Canada. Let our decisions be based on evidence and with compassion for people using drugs, not on ignorance and fear.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Livingstone
Interim Board Chairperson
Cambridge Shelter Corporation
March 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: OPPOSITION NOTICE TO THE PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL CTS SITE

This letter is in representation of the Board of Directors of the Montessori School of Cambridge, as well as our entire Montessori community.

We understand there has been an increase in both opioid usage and deaths within our City. The facts surrounding usage and deaths are disheartening and we want to offer our thank you to all those who continue to advocate and care for those in these troubling situations.

Our school houses 85 children ages 18 months to 6 years and we employ 15 staff. The school is located on Roseview Avenue in a beautiful yellow brick building. It is our purpose as Montessori Educators not only to support and foster healthy relationships and community, but to in fact delve deeper and play an important role in raising children who are confident, self assured and have strong leadership skills. We work with children to ensure they have compassion for others with a focus on community awareness and helping others.

With the above being said, the Montessori School of Cambridge has been the epitome of diversity, culture, education, community and family for just short of 50 years in Cambridge/Galt and generations of families have attended and supported our school. Furthermore, we have created a safe place for families within our community.

Being a member of the Cambridge/Galt community since 1972, we feel this contribution and dedication must continue now and well into the future. We must stand with our many families who live within close proximity and are safely able to walk from their houses to school without being at risk of crime related events. In addition, it is our duty as educators to provide a safe place for families and children to attend school.

While we understand that the approved distance from a “Consumption and Treatment Services” site (CTS) to schools or daycares is at least 200m, our school is 280m away; not far outside of this approved acceptable distance. It is also located within a residential neighbourhood and is surrounded by family homes; which is not part of the criteria for a CTS site location. In addition, the proposed travel route from the Bridges and Downtown Core up Cambridge St. is a short 66m to our school if they choose to take this route. They could in fact go up Park Hill, which would then lead them to go right past our school on their way to the CTS site. Both of these scenarios are unacceptable in keeping our children and families safe!
Further, Laneway 173 is directly behind our school and is adjacent to our playground. This creates another clear pathway between the school and the CTS site as well as providing a sheltered area for those using and discarding needles. We have grave concern that by having a CTS site so close to the school and within a residential area, this will promote more crime related activity.

Quite pointedly, by having a CTS so close to our school, it will put our business at risk of closure due to parents not wanting to send their young children to a school that is in such close proximity.

We empathize with the complexity of the ongoing opioid crisis and hope that alternative options are provided to help those in need.

In conclusion, the proposed CTS location is unacceptable and we oppose such a site being in any residential community.

Sincerely,

Principal
March 29th, 2021

Dear Mayor McGarry, Cambridge City Councillors, Cambridge Regional Councillors, Dave Bush, David Calder, and Hardy Bromberg,

I hope this letter finds you all well. I can tell you though, I certainly would prefer writing you about a different topic, and I am sure you feel the same.

When I made the decision to purchase and renovate 60 Main for my marketing firm, I naively had no concept of the drug addiction situation in the core, much less not knowing it would consume two years of conversations, confusion, standing in front of you as a delegate, or the nervous feelings and often times anger about how it might be solved — what I needed to do, and should I continue to invest. Trust me, it was hard.

I applauded the bylaw, and the firm stance taken by our City/Council which gave me the confidence and peace of mind to proceed. And over those two years, my understanding of the crisis widened, realizing that a CTS may help mitigate harm, but with the proper treatment/wrap around services. However, I remain skeptical that the latter is not being, or will ever be, appropriately addressed.

I have seen the recent op ed’s written by local CTS advocates appealing and attempting to sway the minds of the citizens that may oppose a site or oppose one in the Core. I question the notion that the “fear” I/we have is “unfounded”. Seriously? The fear is real, for many people. I have experienced personal threat myself, in broad daylight. I have heard the stories from business owners. We all have. And it’s not just personal fear, but the fear of losing the momentum of the redevelopment that is starting to gain steam, and the fear of watching our downtown further degrade. You don’t have to read between the lines to see the author’s not so subtle choice of words to the readers, that a CTS should be Downtown. I highly question that a CTS can, as it was put, “actually be a benefit to the downtown”.

If one were in the core, or within the buffer, it would most certainly adversely affect businesses, and the people in the community who are wanting places to shop, to stroll, to eat, to laugh. It would affect the efforts of those who have, and those who plan to invest in Main Street, and the other great areas within the core. Not to mention those who are right now planning on starting their businesses and leasing space post covid. Make no mistake, it’s not just for the developers, but for the community as a whole.

The reason for the bylaw imposed, for two years, was made for the right reasons. The 500-yard buffer was the right decision. And it still is. In light of this I am not in any way supportive of the Oxford Street location, and not just because it’s within the buffer zone. I instantly saw it as a poor location choice, and I am trying to understand why it’s even on the table, especially as we were all assured on a number of occasions that nothing would be considered within it.

I respectfully urge you to remember your words and assurances, and not consider this site further.

Regards,

Terry Polyak
President, Milestone Integrated Marketing

60 Main Street — 52 Main Street — 15 Main Street...