

Michael Garron Hospital



Formerly the Toronto East General Hospital

May 27, 2016

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Chair, Board of Health
City of Toronto

Re: Letter of support for South Riverdale Community Health Centre

Dear Councillor Mihevc,

As President & CEO of Michael Garron Hospital, I am writing to say that we would be pleased to support South Riverdale Community Health Centre's proposal to expand its harm reduction services to include supervised injection.

As a full service community teaching hospital in east Toronto, we serve a very diverse community, and our services include withdrawal management and mental health support in the community, so this program will clearly support many of our shared clients. We have worked very closely with South Riverdale CHC for many years on a variety of projects and our two organizations currently work together to co-chair the Solutions Health Collaborative Network.

We are very confident that this service will be beneficial to this community and that South Riverdale, given their long-standing and excellent work in harm reduction, is the best choice for this service in east Toronto. Given our shared work with South Riverdale; for example, with the Toronto Community Hepatitis C Program, and many Solutions projects to improve care and access for marginalized populations in the community, there would be potential benefits for both our organizations and the communities we serve.

We also see this as a win for the overall health of the community, in particular for reducing public drug use and for increasing the likelihood that members of the populations served by the supervised injection services will have increased access to other supports that could improve their health and quality of life.

There is absolutely no doubt that this service is important for the City of Toronto and that South Riverdale CHC is the best choice in the eastern portion of the City. We urge you approve this important and much-needed service.

Yours truly

Sarah Downey
President & CEO

Cc Lynne Raskin, CEO, South Riverdale Community Health Centre