

MEMO

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Councillor Joe Mihevc
Chair, Board of Health

RE: One-Time Funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
for Additional Staffing and Supplies for Supervised Injection Services
at 277 Victoria Street

DATE: June 15, 2018

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to recommend that City Council make adjustments to the 2018 budget to permit acceptance of \$285,700 in additional one-time 100% provincial funding for the 2018-19 funding year for additional staffing and supplies for Toronto Public Health's Supervised Injection Service (SIS) at 277 Victoria Street.

Toronto continues to be in the midst of an opioid poisoning emergency. Rates of fatal opioid poisoning and emergency room visits related to opioid poisoning are increasing.

In March 2017, the Board of Health endorsed the Toronto Overdose Action Plan, which provides a comprehensive set of actions to prevent and respond to overdoses, targeted to all levels of government. The Medical Officer of Health and Toronto Public Health staff have worked with other City divisions and community and institutional partners to implement the Action Plan recommendations.

While considerable work has been done, the situation remains urgent, and more must be done. Toronto Public Health remains committed to working with our partners to scale up our response to this public health crisis in our community and enable service providers to implement actions, as recommended in the Action Plan. This funding will enable Toronto Public Health to hire four temporary outreach workers to enhance harm reduction outreach services in Toronto with an initial focus around the Supervised Injection Service and the Downtown East.



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The letter from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term for this one-time 100% provincial funding enhancement is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendation:

Councillor Mihevc recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Toronto Public Health 2018 Approved Operating Budget by \$237.4 thousand gross, \$0 net, and four temporary positions, with an annualized impact of \$48.3 thousand gross and \$0 net in 2019, to reflect 100 percent one-time provincial funding for harm reduction at the supervised injection service at 277 Victoria Street.

Sincerely,

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West

Appendix 1: Funding Letter from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care