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St. Michael's  
Inspired Care.  
Inspiring Science.

Douglas E. Sinclair MD  
Executive Vice President and Chief

Via e-mail: [councillor\\_mihevc@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca)

July 2, 2013

Councillor Joe Mihevc  
Chair, Toronto Board of Health

*Re: Supervised Injection Sites in the City of Toronto*

Dear Councillor Mihevc:

St. Michael's Hospital would like to support the recommendations contained in the Board of Health report regarding Supervised Injection Services (SIS) that will be reviewed on July 10, 2013.

St. Michael's began caring for inner city populations in 1892. The hospital currently manages a comprehensive system of treatment, prevention and harm reduction services for people living with addictions. It includes in-patient, ambulatory and community-based mental health services; a withdrawal management detoxification program; Methadone clinics; family physician support for The WORKS at Toronto Public Health; and the only 24 hour needle exchange in Canada in our Emergency Department. In addition, a Coordinated Access Service to Withdrawal Management Beds in the City is based here.

St. Michael's has experienced success in adopting harm reduction principles as one aspect of our programs. Research completed locally and internationally has indicated that SIS contributes to a safer environment for all residents, reduces transmission of blood-borne illness, increases usage of other addiction services and is an efficient use of financial and human resources, an important consideration during this time of fiscal constraint. The TOSCA study conducted by researchers at St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto is one recent confirmation of the need for SIS in Toronto. (<http://www.toscastudy.ca>)

We look forward to seeing the Board of Health's vision for healthier communities achieved and to this end, staff at St. Michael's Hospital would be happy to meet with you and other city officials to advance the implementation of the SIS recommendations.