

Board of Health c/o Nancy Martins 10th floor, West Tower, City Hall 100 Queen Street West Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of The Works, Toronto Public Health's proposed supervised injection service (SIS).

Street Health Community Nursing Foundation works to improve the health and well-being of homeless and vulnerably housed individuals in southeast Toronto by addressing the social determinants of health through programs, services, education and advocacy. Our priority communities are people who struggle with complex health and social issues such as extreme poverty, homelessness, mental health and substance dependency.

We have a long standing partnership with The Works. We are a designated satellite location and provide harm reduction services, education, supplies, kit making, peer outreach and support to the community. We distribute over 90,000 needles and stem kits annually and we are very familiar with the substance use issues and challenges in the downtown east community.

The proposed supervised injection service located at the Works would be an extremely important addition to this community and to the City of Toronto overall. The proposed SIS would reduce the barriers that prevent substance users from accessing health and other services and would ensure that individuals who use substances are not further stigmatized.

The Board of Health's leadership on this issue is critical and Street Health is in full support of this proposal and with the recommendation of The Works becoming one of the three designated locations for the Safe Injection Services in Toronto.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at 416-921-8668 ext 231 or Kapri@streethealth.ca

Sincerely,

Kapri Rabin

Executive Director