

From: [Jason Altenberg](#)
To: [Board of Health](#)
Cc: [Eileen de Villa](#); [Joe Cressy](#); [Alicia Neufeld](#)
Subject: SRCHC letter in support of decriminalization
Date: November 26, 2021 10:13:29 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Toronto Board of Health - SRCHC Letter November 26 2021 \(005\).pdf](#)

Please find attached SRCHCs letter of support for decriminalization.

We look forward to seeing the full report and recommendations and working with the City to end the war on people who use drugs.

Jason

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South Riverdale
COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE

We at South Riverdale Community Health Centre acknowledge that we work and live on Treaty 13 territory which was established between the Mississauga's of Credit River of the Anishinaabek Nation and the British Crown. We further acknowledge that we are surrounded by treaty 13a, treaty 20 also known as the Williams treaty and treaty 19. We acknowledge the Wendat and Haudenosaunee people that also occupied this territory. This territory is the subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant. This covenant was created between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabek including allied nations to peaceably share and protect the resources around the Great Lakes. South Riverdale Community Health Centre acknowledges that we are all treaty people. We shall honour and respect the past in order to move forward carrying the visions of our ancestors. Miigwech, Niá:wen -Thank you. All my relations~

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November 26, 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL: boh@toronto.ca

Toronto Board of Health
c/o City Clerk's Office
Toronto City Hall
10th fl. W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
Toronto Board of Health

Dear members of the Toronto Board of Health:

South Riverdale Community Health Centre strongly supports the need to end the war on drugs and supports decriminalization. On a daily basis through our harm reduction programs, supervised consumption services, primary care and safer opioid supply programs, we witness and respond to the tragic and preventable impacts of criminalization. We know that decriminalization is a necessary component of ending stigma and discrimination and we also see the disproportionate harms that criminalization has on black and indigenous communities; as such we see decriminalization as necessary to address systemic racism and colonization.

We support a vision of decriminalization that is built on the needs and voices of people who use drugs and that simultaneously attempts to address the need for a regulated and safer supply of drugs to support the end of the overdose crisis. We look forward to seeing the full details of the Toronto plan and encourage us all to ensure that our efforts do not create additional harms to the community.

Sincerely,

Jason Altenberg
Chief Executive Officer

c.c. Councillor Joe Cressy – Chair, Board of Health, City of Toronto - councillor_cressy@toronto.ca
Dr. Eileen de Villa – Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto - eileen.devilla@toronto.ca
Alicia Neufeld - Associate Director, Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat - alicia.neufeld@toronto.ca

