

Board of Health

From: Maggie Helwig [REDACTED]
Sent: September 8, 2024 9:25 PM
To: Board of Health
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.HL16.2 on September 9, 2024 Board of Health

Categories: Communication

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the September 9, 2024 Board of Health meeting on item 2024.HL16.2, Toronto Public Health 2025 Operating Budget Submission.

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Please note that I am requesting that my submission comments and name be available to the public record.

Comments:

I live in Toronto, near to the Queen and Bathurst site of the Parkdale-Queen West Community Health Centre, and therefore to the Safe Consumption Site hosted there. I work at St Stephen-in-the-Fields Church, just around the corner from the Kensington Market Overdose Prevention Site (in fact, the harms reduction kits which they hand out are assembled at my church).

I know that the Board of Health understands very well the lifesaving importance of these sites. I know that you're aware the closing these sites will result in thousands of deaths. Many of those deaths will be my neighbours and friends.

Given this, I want to implore you, with all the strength I have, not to accept the closure of these sites as a *fait accompli*. The legislation required to put this closure into effect has not yet passed. There are very real legal and constitutional challenges already being prepared. If you bind yourselves to a budget which assumes the closure of these sites as already a given, you are allowing yourselves to be used as tools of Doug Ford's murderous agenda.

I believe that you are our allies in this struggle. Please don't pass a budget which will require you to collaborate in such grievous harm.

Thank you

The Reverend Canon Maggie Helwig