Support life-saving supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites: open letter to Premier Doug Ford and Health Minister Christine Elliott
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Bryan Baker, MD, FRCPC

We, as primary care practitioners, acknowledge the stark reality of opioid use and opioid-related mortality in Ontario. Given the ongoing opioid epidemic, overdose prevention and harm reduction services have an important role in mitigating the health and social harms associated with substance use. These services provide not only an opportunity to prevent overdose deaths, but also interventions that have been found to reduce opioid use and related harms.

Supervised consumption and overdose prevention sites (SCOSs) have been shown to be effective in reducing overdose deaths and improving access to care for people using substances. They provide a safe and supervised environment for consumption, as well as medical staff to administer naloxone and provide support for those in crisis. SCOSs also facilitate access to treatment for opioid use disorders, and can be a gateway to long-term recovery services.

We urge all political leaders to prioritize the immediate implementation of SCOSs in Ontario. These sites are essential in addressing the opioid crisis and improving public health outcomes. It is time for our government to take action and invest in these life-saving services.

We look forward to the positive impact SCOSs will have on the health and well-being of our communities. Together, we can work towards a future where lives are saved and harm is reduced.