



LISA GRETZKY

MPP Windsor West
Députée provinciale de Windsor-Ouest

March 1, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Jones,

I am writing to you today about an extremely important and urgent matter regarding provincial funding associated with the Safepoint Consumption and Treatment Services site in my community in Windsor. It is crucial that provincial funding is forwarded to the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit as quickly as possible. I share in the concern of many in my community as we await the funding needed to open and operate the Safepoint Consumption and Treatment Services site.

As you are likely aware, Ontario has an overdose epidemic. The number of overdoses in my community and across the province are extremely high and very alarming. The funding needed to open and operate the Safepoint Consumption and Treatment Services site is vital and lifesaving. Further delays will result in lives lost and further harm to families and my community.

To highlight the importance of the life-saving services offered at the Safepoint Consumption and Treatment Services site, individuals will be provided with a range of comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based services that meet them “where they are at” in their journeys with substance use. This will include:

- Supervised consumption services
- Distribution of sterile harm reduction equipment and supplies
- Distribution of naloxone kits and training
- Drug checking services
- Basic medical care and support
- Addiction support
- Connections and referrals to substance use treatment and recovery, mental healthcare, primary care, and social services

Healthcare in Ontario is under severe pressure. People requiring mental health and addiction services often face long waitlists and barriers to accessing care. Delays in accessing care can have deadly consequences. Providing ongoing, stable funding for Safepoint, to get it open and operating with no delay is just one way to combat pressures on our healthcare system.

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Minister Jones, provincial funding for SafePoint will save lives. Individuals and their families are relying on you to provide the necessary funding and supports they need to live long, healthy lives together. I look forward to your prompt response regarding the status and the certainty that funding it is on its way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Gretzky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Gretzky MPP Windsor West
Critic of Mental Health and Addictions

CC: Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Mayor Drew Dilkens
Councillor Fred Francis – Ward 1
Councillor Fabio Costante – Ward 2
Councillor Renaldo Agostino – Ward 3
Councillor Mark McKenzie – Ward 4
Councillor Ed Sleiman – Ward 5
Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac – Ward 6
Councillor Angelo Marignani – Ward 7
Councillor Gary Kaschak – Ward 8
Councillor Kieran McKenzie – Ward 9
Councillor Jim Morrison – Ward 10