

Hello,

To Cambridge City Council Members,

Please support the creation of Consumption and Treatment Services in Downtown Cambridge. It is deeply needed to serve and save the lives of the marginalized drug using community in Cambridge. Surprisingly, to the voices of those who opposed it may find the site to address the concerns they are worried about. CTS sites across Canada helps to reduce in community overdoses, supports individuals to access treatment and health services, saves public funds (ex. Ambulance Services, Health Services) and reduce substance use litter in the community. I could supply research that supports all this.

I was compelled to write this email after I saw the results of the [survey on the CBC's Waterloo Region](#) website. I ask that you do not listen to this vocal minority and listen to the expert's advice who fight against the overdose crisis daily. We hold the knowledge to address this crisis.

I am a Master of Social Work student who has also worked 7 plus years in Waterloo Region social services, specializing in substance use, mental health, and homelessness. I have personally used Naloxone on people as a worker reversing overdoses and have also lost countless clients to overdoses in our community and have also seen how the Kitchener CTS has saved and support so many people in Kitchener.

We need a CTS in Cambridge for many reasons, but I will highlight two. 1) It will save the lives of people who use drugs and provide them with the medical services they need. 2) It will reduce the stress and tension on shelter workers, street outreach workers and food bank workers who are currently having to save people daily. We should have a medical site that will help reduce the stress on these other social services.

Please have the courage to vote Yes, as the city employee's have recommended. You will get push back from a small portion of the community, but you will get much support from others. Finally, by voting yes you will know you are saving lives and providing an important support to a community who struggles to find hope in the community.

I would love to speak to you personally, if available, and share my personal and professional perspective on drug policy and the responses to the overdose crisis that I have seen work and not work. Please email me at [REDACTED] to set a time or phone me at [REDACTED]. Looking forward to having a conversation.

Caleb Redekop

MSW Candidate