



ANGELA KENNEDY
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March 31, 2016

TO: Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, March 31, 2016

FROM: Angela Kennedy, Trustee, Ward 11

SUBJECT: Notice of Motion, Endorsement of the Toronto Board of Health Proposed Implementation of Supervised Injection Sites in Toronto

MOVED BY: Angela Kennedy, Toronto Catholic District School Board

WHEREAS: TCDSB’s vision is to “transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.”

WHEREAS: The TCDSB’s Multi-Year Strategic Plan is underpinned by Catholic Values that “believe in the worth and dignity of every person” and acknowledges “the critical role that our Catholic schools play in promoting Gospel values, social justice, environmental responsibility, human dignity, solidarity, and the common good.”

WHEREAS: There has been a 41 per cent increase in the reported number of overdose deaths in Toronto over the past decade due to the increasing role of opioids such as heroin and fentanyl.

WHEREAS: Research shows that supervised injection services for pre-obtained drugs conducted under the guidance of a registered nurse has been proven to save lives, reduce drug overdoses, limit the spread of blood-borne and infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis, and provide benefits both for individuals using the services and for the community.

WHEREAS: Many TCSDSB staff and students are exposed daily to health and safety dangers posed by publicly discarded needles in our school yards and play areas.

WHEREAS: Being the largest Catholic School Board in the province educating over 90,000 students in 201 school sites, the TCDSB should be prepared to take a leadership on this major urban health issue by endorsing this harm reduction strategy that will lead to ensuring a safer environment for our staff, students and their families.

WHEREAS: One of the proposed Supervised Injection Sites for Toronto is in Ward 30 (Leslieville) – which is also part of TCDSB Ward 11, and an area identified with an immediate need for the new service.

WHEREAS: I represent our Catholic ratepayers in this area, and am myself a Registered Nurse and a member of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, who has first-hand training and evidence-based knowledge that supervised injection sites save lives and will help to reduce public drug use and discarded needles in our community.

WHEREAS: A report summarizing community input and outlining further steps in the process for implementing supervised injection services in Toronto will be submitted to the July 2016 meeting of the Board of Health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Toronto Catholic District School Board send a letter to the Toronto Board of Health endorsing the plan for Supervised Injection Sites in Toronto, emphasizing our support for this initiative that will lead to a safer, healthier city for our students.

Angela Kennedy
Trustee, Ward 11