

# A SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITE FOR BARRIE

Overview of community consultations

April 28, 2021



Canadian Mental  
Health Association

Association canadienne  
pour la santé mentale

*Simcoe  
County*

GAMBLING, SUBSTANCE USE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



**simcoe  
muskoka**  
DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT



# PROPOSED SITE OPTIONS



192 Bradford St.



11 Sophia St. W.



110 Dunlop St. W.  
Unit 4



19 Innisfil St  
(80 Bradford St.  
Unit 940)





# IN THE BEGINNING THIS IS WHAT WE KNEW

Scoring of Additional SCS Site Options				
	Address and ranking	Address and ranking	Address and ranking	Address and ranking
	192 Bradford St	11 Sophia St W	19 Innisfil St (also known as 80 Bradford St., Unit 940)	110 Dunlop St. W. Unit 4
<b>Overall scoring value</b>				
Does the choice support the future strategy	1	1	1	1
<b>Access to Service</b>				
Wrap Around Services on site (Y/N)	0.5	0.5	1	1
Near where people use drugs, ie within 1 km of open drug use	0.5	1	1	1
<b>Viability for use</b>				
Cost of purchase/lease could be supported with anticipated budget	1	1	0.5	0.5
Landlord willingness to hold site while waiting for funding approval	1	1	0	1
Landlord approved	1	1	1	1
Does the choice allow for growth	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Space available between 1000 – 1500 sq feet	1	0.5	1	1
<b>Municipal/Community considerations</b>				
Proximity to 100 – 200 m to sensitive land use (note reverse scoring)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0
Meets municipal zoning and building code requirements *is a change in use required*	1	0.5	1	0.5
Class D Building	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8</b>



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## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

- Initial survey completed Fall of 2020
  - 1200 usable surveys were received
  - 953 respondents provided feedback on 110 Dunlop St W. Unit 4



## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

- Top 3 Benefits identified for 110 Dunlop St W. Unit 4:
  - Reduce public drug use on streets or in parks and washrooms (68.4%)
  - Reduce risk of injury and death from drug overdose (68.0%)
  - Connect people who use drugs or their family members with health, treatment and social services (65.2%)
- Top 3 Concerns identified for 110 Dunlop St W. Unit 4:
  - Safety of community members (42.8%)
  - Impact on businesses or profits (42.2%)
  - Impact on neighbourhood cleanliness or quality of life (41.4%)



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## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

Spring of 2021

- 1339 surveys completed on the following sites:
  - 11 Sophia St W – **944** respondents
  - 19 Innisfil St – **979** respondents
  - 192 Bradford St – **874** respondents





## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS SPRING 2021

### • TOP 3 BENEFITS

11 Sophia St W	19 Innisfil St	192 Bradford St
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the risk of injury and death from drug overdose – 61 %</li><li>• Reduce public drug use on the streets or in parks and washrooms – 60 %</li><li>• Fewer used needles on the streets and in parks – 58 %</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the risk of injury and death from drug overdose – 64 %</li><li>• Reduce public drug use on streets or in parks and washrooms – 63 %</li><li>• Connect people who use drugs or their family members with health, treatment and social services – 62 %</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the risk of injury and death from drug overdose – 57 %</li><li>• Reduce public drug use on streets or in parks and washrooms – 54 %</li><li>• Reduce the risk of diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C – 52 %</li></ul>



## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS SPRING 2021

### • TOP 3 CONCERNS

11 Sophia St W	19 Innisfil St	192 Bradford St
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact on neighbourhood cleanliness or quality of life – 45%</li> <li>• Safety of community members – 43%</li> <li>• More people who use drugs in the neighbourhood – 43%</li> <li>• *31 % of respondents had no concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety of community members – 44%</li> <li>• Impact on neighbourhood cleanliness or quality of life – 42%</li> <li>• More people who use drugs in the neighbourhood – 41%</li> <li>• *30 % of respondents had no concerns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety of community members – 47%</li> <li>• Impact on neighbourhood cleanliness or quality of life – 46 %</li> <li>• Decrease in property values – 44%</li> <li>• *24 % of respondents had no concerns</li> </ul>





## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS – NARRATIVE

	Proximity to people who would use the site		Proximity to sensitive land use	
	Benefit	Concern	Benefit	Concern
11 Sophia St W	44	3		156
19 Innisfil St	70	19		127
192 Bradford St	28	119		227
110 Dunlop St W Unit 4*	25			139

\*Information about 110 Dunlop was taken from comments captured in the Community Survey on proposed locations for a SCS in Ward 2 Barrie: Summary Report January 2021 and therefore is not directly comparable due to different respondents.



## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEYS

From hardcopy surveys (50) received from partners who engage people who use drugs:

### Top Benefits consistent between sites

- Decrease in overdose
- Decrease in public use
- Decrease in disease transmission

### Top Concerns consistent between sites

- Safety of children and the greater community
- Increase in people who use drugs around the site
- 22 out of 50 surveys received had **no concerns**



# THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS



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## Preliminary Findings: 19 Innisfil St

DRAFT

Information below was provided by session participants, representative of public perception and not necessarily factual

Benefits <i>What are the benefits, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	Concerns <i>What are the specific concerns, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to those who would need this service</li><li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to existing wraparound services and CMHA</li><li>• Large space with room for growth</li><li>• Separate entrance that helps reduce stigmatization of people who use drugs – other locations require you to walk in off the street</li><li>• Helps to support current issue of needle use and disposal in the area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to residential area; concerns around safety of children playing and going to nearby school</li><li>• High traffic area with considerable development in progress (e.g. YMCA, residential housing); poor pedestrian access, limited sidewalks and no traffic lights</li><li>• Adding that level of traffic to a location that is both on a major thoroughfare and a few hundred feet from the City's main fire station</li><li>• Concerned about safe consumption sites being near methadone clinics (creates conflicting paradigms)</li><li>• Fear that this will overwhelm the area and <u>local residents</u>; will interfere with the positive redevelopment of the area</li><li>• Concerns about potential for increased drug trafficking in the area</li><li>• Potential to negatively impact businesses in this area</li><li>• May impact ability of businesses to deliver their services in a safe manner e.g. physio – could lead to some moving</li><li>• Negatively impact Milligan's pond which is already a problem area</li><li>• Local green space is not clean or safe</li><li>• Entranceway is not accessible (iron stairs)</li><li>• Landlord may not be supportive, doesn't have a long-term focus</li></ul>
Mitigation Strategies <i>What are some changes, if any, that would help manage some of the identified concerns with the potential Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve lighting and accessibility at entrance – ensure that it is welcoming and accessible</li><li>• Co-locate similar services such as other health services</li><li>• Location <u>has to</u> be convenient for the needs of the users, give users safe transportation out of the area – very unsafe location for pedestrians</li><li>• Ensure there is somewhere for people to go afterwards (or don't leave before they're ready)</li><li>• Look at adding an all way stop or lights to mitigate traffic</li></ul>	



# THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS

## Preliminary Findings: 192 Bradford St

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Benefits <i>What are the benefits, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	Concerns <i>What are the specific concerns, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buffer of water treatment plant may be helpful in separating this site from the residential area</li><li>• Substance use in the area is high</li><li>• Less of a danger to the community since it is in a location that is away from downtown population center</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very close proximity to young families, lots of children near this site</li><li>• Up and coming area very close to high traffic beach access</li><li>• Concern of people congregating/loitering, can enable and promote unhealthy behaviours</li><li>• Negatively impacts property values and insurance costs</li><li>• Furthest from all social services, limited access to wrap around services</li><li>• Not located near those who need this service</li><li>• Limited transportation options <u>e.g.</u> far from bus station</li><li>• Site may be too small for this purpose</li><li>• Sidewalks are narrow in this area, not a lot of room to by-pass people walking in the area under the influence</li><li>• Potential for use of <u>waste water</u> treatment as a thoroughfare, not a lot of lighting in the area</li></ul>
Mitigation Strategies <i>What are some changes, if any, that would help manage some of the identified concerns with the potential Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	

- Private security service/system would be preferred over Barrie Police services
- Need to have a neighbourhood contact with Barrie Police to help support some of the concerns
- If site is open 24/7, would need increased security presence, not just CCTV, during the night supplied by the operators of the site
- Would appreciate a neighbourhood watch (or other community organization) for the residents safety, a forum to continue to have discussions and monitor the impact this has on the community
- More effective transportation options will need to be considered if this site was to move forward e.g. shuttle service to and from site
- Improved road safety e.g. new pathways to accommodate foot traffic; busy area and with users under the influence of drugs, the road with speeding motorists creates concern for the safety of the users
- Increased lighting in the area, need to be mindful of the safety of the users in addition to the public



# THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS

## Preliminary Findings: 110 Dunlop St

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<b>Benefits</b> <i>What are the benefits, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	<b>Concerns</b> <i>What are the specific concerns, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate area/location for the purpose, not in the 'core' of downtown, more accessible than others</li> <li>• Close to the area where potential users typically reside</li> <li>• Multi-use area (more commercial, less residential) which reduces disruption to the broader community/population</li> <li>• Reduction in open drug use in the area</li> <li>• Reducing needles on the street, thus greater cleanliness in the area and lower cost of municipal services long-term</li> <li>• Seems to be additional opportunity for expansion at this location</li> <li>• Most accessible site, walkable or public transit options available, doesn't require driving</li> <li>• Entrance from behind the building – adds privacy and protection</li> <li>• Through Voicesofdowntown.com, business within the building are already supporting this location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located on main gateway to the City potentially damaging the perception of the community and businesses (impacting livelihoods of business owners)</li> <li>• Opposition or protests could deter people from using the facility / going to businesses in the area</li> <li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to large new private developments (condos, new markets etc.) and to public spaces (<u>Queens park</u> &amp; the YMCA facility); could negatively impact investor appetite</li> <li>• Location might be over saturated – due to proximity of other facilities</li> <li>• Potential for increased trespassing on private property due to location</li> <li>• Crowds of people gathering/loitering in the area</li> <li>• Poor condition of the building/facility</li> <li>• Potential to tie up police resources in the area</li> <li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to the local stake park with families/children nearby</li> </ul>
<b>Mitigation Strategies</b> <i>What are some changes, if any, that would help manage some of the identified concerns with the potential Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased security in the broader area – not just at the facility, including private security in addition to public resources like police</li> <li>• Make investments in revitalization of the facility and surrounding area (<u>e.g.</u> streetscapes, side walks, building conditions etc.) so it is more welcoming/inviting and aligned with the rest of the community</li> <li>• Enhance public education and information to destigmatize the site, and ultimately encourage more people to use the service <u>e.g.</u> tours open to the public to give people an opportunity to see what the site is all about</li> <li>• Measuring and evaluating progress – reporting to the public on the effectiveness of the facility in addressing its objectives over time</li> <li>• Enhance accessibility and privacy features at the site; opportunity to promote the more private back entrance and adding privacy screens around the site</li> <li>• Have community liaisons, representing different groups of people, that can support the use of facility and encourage those who need help to seek it</li> <li>• Consolidation of services in the area; opportunity to have one facility that offers a more comprehensive service, versus multiple specific services</li> <li>• Ensuring accessibility – offer a 24/7 service (or at least long and flexible hours) as the site needs to be readily available</li> </ul>	





# THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS

## Preliminary Findings: 11 Sophia St

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Benefits <i>What are the benefits, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	Concerns <i>What are the specific concerns, if any, in having a Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optimal location in an area where individuals use drugs, not in an area with lots of businesses (less impact to them), and within walking distance to downtown</li><li>• More accessible than any of the four site options</li><li>• Connects people to health treatment and social services (centralized in one area)</li><li>• Will improve the neighbourhood and make people feel safer</li><li>• Positive curb appeal; looks like a welcoming house</li><li>• Only site that has an outdoor space to connect individuals, providing some privacy and allowing for other options for consuming drugs <u>e.g.</u> inhalation</li><li>• Will reduce needles left behind in Queens Park area</li><li>• Located on a pedestrian friendly street</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Embedded close to established residential community; concerns around safety of residents</li><li>• Negatively impacts property values</li><li>• <u>Close proximity</u> to young families and a school</li><li>• Small size of the location, only 900 sq. ft. which limits ability to provide wrap around services</li><li>• Ongoing condo development nearby likely to increase concentration of people in the area which could deter users to come to this location</li><li>• Police have had ongoing concerns with this area; close to known drug houses</li><li>• Property is not zoned correctly which could cause delay</li><li>• Limited parking for vehicles and no wheelchair access</li></ul>
Mitigation Strategies <i>What are some changes, if any, that would help manage some of the identified concerns with the potential Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) at this location?</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather community feedback and provide opportunities for ongoing engagement – keep open dialogue by having a representative to speak with</li><li>• Need for financial investment to enhance security, ensure security forces know how to deal with this type of user population; sometimes interactions between people who use drugs and security is not always positive</li><li>• Create nice atmosphere that is welcoming (building on the fact it is a house) and a therapeutic environment where individuals feel safe and can build connections with community supports</li><li>• Evaluate the service to see what is working and what is not, share results with the local community to <u>take action</u></li><li>• Need for better public understanding/education around the operation and impact of an SCS <u>e.g.</u> offering tours of the site</li><li>• Introduce a community watch program that can be the eyes and ears of the area to watch for any concerns</li></ul>	





## THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS

## Preliminary Findings: Other Considerations

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### • Community Engagement

- Ensure engagement of actual users in the selection of potential locations
- Ensure people feel heard through engagement to help mitigate broader concerns (protests etc.) and help make the site more 'successful'
- Public education is needed to help address commonly held misconceptions/concerns and shift the negative view of those who use this service

### • Site Location

- Drug use "hotspots" seem to be constantly changing over time and thus locating close to the users might not work that well long-term
- Potential to consider more than one SCS site in Barrie to serve the community
- Peel Region research noted that distance (a significant majority would walk a maximum of 15 min) and privacy (they would not use a site that made them feel very visible to police or public) are key concerns for users of an SCS site
- Need to look at other opportunities to grow wrap around services (e.g. affordable housing)
- Security needs to go beyond physical location of the site, including monitoring the areas around the site
  - If police are involved for security, have officers who are part of a specialized team with additional mental health training, etc. and have clear guidelines on role (to avoid excessive use of force/power)

### • Site Selection

- 2 of 4 locations are owned by realtors, thus the applicants need to ensure there is no conflict of interest
- Actual address of 19 Innisfil/ 11 Innisfil site needs to be clarified to avoid further confusion



# THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED – NEIGHBOURHOOD SESSIONS

## Preliminary Findings: Summary

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Proposed SCS Site	Key Benefits	Key Concerns
19 Innisfil St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Close proximity</b> to those who would need this service and existing wraparound services</li> <li>• <b>Large space with room for growth</b></li> <li>• <b>Separate entrance</b> that helps reduce stigmatization of people who use drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Close proximity</b> to residential area; concerns around safety of children playing and going to nearby school</li> <li>• <b>High traffic area</b> with considerable development in progress; poor pedestrian access, limited sidewalks and no traffic lights</li> <li>• <b>Potential to negatively impact businesses</b> in this area and their ability to deliver services safely</li> </ul>
192 Bradford St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Buffer of water treatment plant</b> may be helpful in separating this site from the residential area</li> <li>• <b>Substance use in the area is high</b></li> <li>• <b>Located away from downtown</b> population center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Very close proximity</b> to young families, lots of children near this site</li> <li>• <b>Negatively impacts property values and insurance</b></li> <li>• <b>Not located near those who need this service</b>, furthest from all social services and limited transportation options</li> </ul>
110 Dunlop St	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Appropriate area/location</b> for the purpose, close to the area where potential users typically reside</li> <li>• <b>Multi-use area</b> (more commercial, less residential) which reduces disruption to the broader community/population</li> <li>• <b>Most accessible site</b>, walkable or public transit options available, doesn't require driving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Located on main gateway to the City</b> potentially damaging the perception of the community and businesses</li> <li>• <b>Close proximity</b> to large new private developments and public spaces; could negatively impact investor appetite</li> <li>• <b>Location might be over saturated</b> due to proximity to other facilities</li> </ul>
11 Sophia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Optimal location</b> in an area where users are</li> <li>• <b>Limited impact on businesses</b> and within walking distance to downtown</li> <li>• <b>Only site that has an outdoor space</b> to connect individuals, providing some privacy and allows for other options for consuming drugs <u>e.g.</u> inhalation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Embedded close to established residential community</b>; concerns around safety of residents</li> <li>• <b>Negatively impacts property values</b></li> <li>• <b>Small size of the location</b>, only 900 sq. ft. which limits ability to provide wrap around services</li> </ul>



## NEXT STEPS

Applicants to consult with SCS site selection Advisory committee and then select proposed site option

Endorsement of the proposed site option will be sought from Barrie City Council on May 25, 2021

Completion and submission of both the provincial and federal applications