

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KCHC's Consumption and Treatment Services site closes on September 30

KINGSTON, ON – After eight years in operation, Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) will close its Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site at the Integrated Care Hub (ICH) on September 30, 2026. The closure follows the provincial government's decision to end funding for supervised consumption sites, making Kingston's CTS the last of its kind to close in Ontario.

The closure means supervised consumption, needle exchange and drug checking services will no longer be available at the Integrated Care Hub on Montreal Street. KCHC's Street Health Centre on Barrack Street will continue to provide primary care, addiction treatment and harm reduction services, with an increased focus on outreach and maintaining connections to care for people who have relied on CTS.

"CTS was the first door that opened many other doors. Many of our clients were unattached to primary care and had never tried opioid agonist therapy. For some, it was their first connection to the shelter system, through a referral," explains CTS Program Coordinator Justine McIsaac. "We helped people access OW and ODSP, find employment and volunteer opportunities, and connected them with treatment and housing. Later on, our drug checking service brought another layer of support. And through it all, the CTS team responded to thousands of overdoses with grace, love and humility."

661 Montreal Street will remain open

The Integrated Care Hub at 661 Montreal Street will remain open as [AMHS-KFLA](#) transitions the site to a Homelessness Addictions Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub model and will be renamed [HART Connect](#) beginning October 1.

Individuals will continue to have access to services including overnight beds and resting spaces, meals, drop-in support, showers, and connections to healthcare, housing and community services. KCHC will continue working alongside AMHS-KFLA, the City of Kingston and other community partners to support people through the transition. In preparation for the closure of CTS and the opening of the HART Hub, AMHS, KCHC and the City established a planning table to work together to best meet the needs of the community. A key focus of this work was developing clear communications to ensure clients affected by the closure of CTS, the public, community partners, local agencies and groups know where to access services and supports, including harm reduction services, as well as resources for community members who may encounter someone in need or come across drug paraphernalia.

KCHC continuing care after CTS closes

KCHC recognizes that the closure of CTS will have a significant impact on clients, staff and the broader community. KCHC has been in contact with other CTS sites that have already closed to better understand the challenges communities may face following closure.

One concern shared by those communities is that people who previously gathered at CTS sites may disperse after the closure, losing not only a place to consume substances with trained staff

nearby, but also the relationships they had built with healthcare workers who helped them feel safe and connected to care.

Some people may begin using substances alone, without someone nearby who can respond to an overdose. Others may use in public spaces, where an overdose may be more likely to be witnessed and reported to 911. Other communities have also reported concerns about increased calls to 911 and pressure on first responders and emergency departments, as well as more discarded drug equipment in public spaces.

“I’m heartbroken at the thought of CTS not being there, and I’m deeply worried about how and where people will use substances,” says Wendy Vuyk, KCHC’s Director of Community Health. “It was a remarkable model of care. It saved lives, but it also helped people access healthcare and other supports when and where they needed them. I can’t help but wonder what the cost for our community will be when CTS is no longer there.”

Following the closure, KCHC will increase its outreach services through Street Health Centre and continue providing primary care, addiction treatment and harm reduction services. This includes rapid access to addiction medicine, medications, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections, harm reduction supplies, and connections to housing and other supports.

KCHC is also continuing to work to maintain the drug checking program in Kingston. Drug checking provides people with information about unexpected or potentially dangerous substances in the drug supply, helping them make more informed decisions about their health and safety.

“The need for care and connection does not end when CTS closes,” says Vuyk. “Our focus now is on making sure people know where they can continue to access care, maintaining the relationships we have built, and working with our partners to strengthen the broader system of support.”