

Overview:

Consumption and Treatment Services, HART Hubs, Legislation

August 29, 2024



There are 3 components to the August 20 provincial announcement.

1. Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS)

- Rejects all submitted/pending CTS applications.
- Eliminates new CTS applications to the Province.
- Defunds 10 of 17 existing CTS sites - Thunder Bay, Hamilton, Kitchener, Guelph, Ottawa, Toronto (5 sites) - that operate within 200m of a school or childcare facility by March 2025, and prohibits those sites from moving to comply with the 200m regulation.
- New restrictions to be introduced on surviving CTS that may necessitate their closure.

2. The Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs (19 sites)

The HART Hubs are limited to serving a portion of people without stable housing and with a diagnosis for substance use disorder in an abstinence-based 'treatment' program. It may include some attached/unattached supportive housing - up to 375 units total across the Province (~ 20 units per successful community) that the announcement says "will help thousands of people each year". There are 4 participating Ministries.

\$378 million announced to support 19 locations (~ \$20m /site) to be offered to municipalities in CTS-defunded communities first. No details are yet available on funding parameters (e.g. length of term, min/max. funding, eligibility, cost-sharing, etc.). Fund guidelines are to be received by municipal Homelessness Service Managers, with an application deadline in fall 2024.

No details are available on treatment modality (residential, outpatient, OAT or otherwise, permitted duration of service provision etc.), or aftercare, if any. Harm reduction is not permitted onsite (e.g. syringe programs, drug consumption, safe supply). May or may not include beds on site. Health and social services currently offered at CTS locations etc. may be included.

3. Fall Legislation

The premier and other elected officials have indicated a plan to introduce legislation in the fall that restricts the freedom of municipalities to participate in federal safe supply initiatives, prohibit decriminalization applications to Health Canada, and ban consumption services such as federal Urgent Public Health Needs Sites (UPHNS). It is not clear what provincial mechanisms will be utilized to restrict municipalities, if the legislation is drafted and subsequently passed in the legislature.

Provincial Documents

[Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with New Treatment Hubs](#)

[HART Hubs Client Journey Infographic](#)

[Provincial review documents](#) (bottom of page) The 3 review documents are generally positive about CTS, do not recommend closures, and offer recommendations for improvements.

This document is subject to change pending new details produced by the Province of Ontario.