

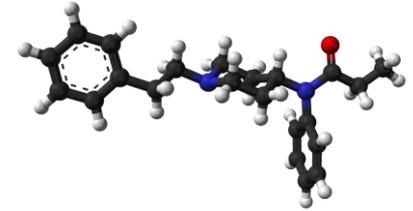
# Supervised Consumption Services in Canada

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# Background



- Canada is experiencing an unprecedented number of overdose deaths due to opioids
  - Opioid overdose rates have dramatically increased in Canada over the last 3 years. In 2017, nearly 4,000 people lost their lives as the result of an apparent opioid overdose, with approximately 1,263 of those overdose deaths in Ontario alone
  - BC declared a public health emergency in April 2016
- Growing public acceptance of SCSs together with concerns about the rising Canadian overdose rates have prompted increased pressure to:
  - Establish more SCSs/OPS nationwide
  - Create a more enabling environment for clients within SCSs

# Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) and Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS)

- SCS and OPS save lives and form the frontline of Canada's harm reduction response.
- The services offered at these sites target vulnerable populations who use drugs, while also connecting people with other social services, such as drug treatment programs.



# Legislative Requirements 101 for SCS and OPS

- Section 56 (1) of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* (CDSA), states that if the Minister is **of the opinion that the exemption is necessary for a medical, scientific or in the public interest**, exempt the applicant of all or any of the provisions of the Act. The Minister can set **any terms and conditions for the exemption** they deem necessary.
- **Exemptions for activities at a SCS are authorized through section 56.1 (1)**. This section authorizes the Minister to exempt applicants from all or any of the provisions of the CDSA to allow certain activities to take place at a SCS, including setting the terms and conditions if it is in the opinion of the Minister, that the **exemption is necessary for a medical purpose**.
- **OPS are authorized under section 56 (1)** of the CDSA based on the **public interest** after a request from a P/T Minister of Health (presently only Ontario and Alberta). Currently, the details of OPS authorizations and operation are left entirely to the discretion of the P/T Minister. However, section 56 (1) authorizes the Minister of Health to set **any terms and conditions for exemptions**.

# Application Requirements for SCS



**'impact of the site on crime rate'** may include estimates of public consumption of illicit drugs, inappropriately discarded used equipment, and trends in crime and public nuisance



**'local conditions indicating need'** may include estimates of targeted client population to be served at the site, population data on the number of persons who consume illicit substances in the area, related infectious disease rates and drug-related overdose deaths. (s. 56.1 (2) of the CDSA)



**'administrative structure in place'** may include policies and procedures that describe staff responsibilities, security measures, record-keeping and reporting procedures, and site floor plan



**'resources available'** may include financial plan or funding description



**'community consultations'** may include a community consultation report and related documents, and *letters of opinion* from local government, police, and public health officer



**'Letter from P/T Minister'** a *Letter of Opinion* from the P/T Minister on how site will be integrated with other health services (optional)



**'personnel information'** the name, resume and criminal record check of the responsible person in charge, and the name and resume of the alternative responsible person in charge

# SCS Novel Models

- First approved SCSs in Canada were run by medical professionals in permanently fixed locations and for injection-only.
- Subsequent approved models include a peer-run site (VANDU), sites with less permanent structures (trailers), mobile sites that can modify location to active drug consumption area's (i.e., sex-trade areas), and sites within residential buildings.
- Services have expanded from injection only to oral, intranasal, peer assistance (pilot only) and inhalation consumption methods (depending on the exemption of a given site). Drug checking services is also approved for many SCS locations across Canada



Mobile supervised injection facility in Montreal. Source: public domain

# Snapshot of SCS and OPS Nationally

## British Columbia

- 9 SCS approved
  - Over 20 OPS operating
- \* (not via class exemption)

## Quebec

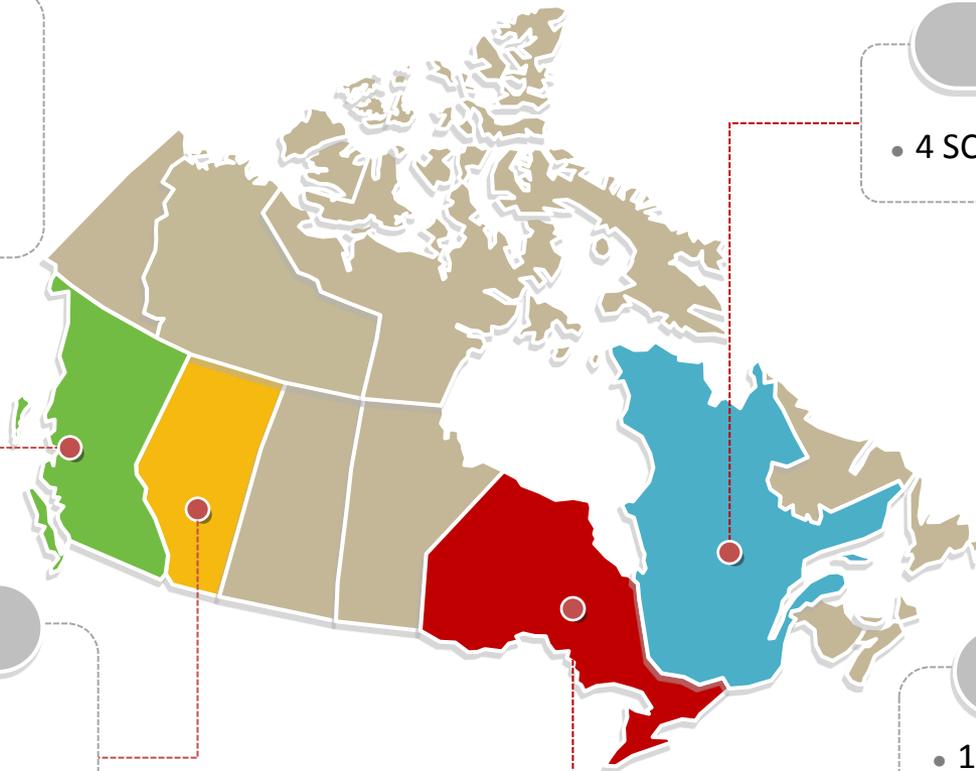
- 4 SCS in operation

## Alberta

- 6 SCS in operation
- 1 OPS, 3 pending review

## Ontario

- 11 SCS approved, 9 in operation
- 8 OPS, 3 pending



# SCS Service Offering Nationally

## British Columbia

- **Kamloops Mobile:** Kamloops (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Kelowna Mobile :** Kelowna (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **135A Street – SafePoint:** Surrey (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Quibble Creek Sobering & Assessment Center:** Surrey (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Dr.Peter Center:** Vancouver (injection)
- **Insite:** Vancouver (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Lookout Society- Powell Street Getaway:** Vancouver (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Johnson Street Community:** Victoria (drug checking, injection)
- **Pandora Community Health and Wellness Center:** Victoria (injection)

## Alberta

- **Sheldon M. Chumir Health Center:** Calgary (injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Boyle Street Community Services:** Edmonton (injection)
- **George Spade Society:** Edmonton (injection)
- **Royal Alexandra Hospital:** Edmonton (injection, intranasal, oral)
- **ARCHES:** Lethbridge (inhalation, injection, intranasal, oral, peer assistance)

## Quebec

- **CACTUS:** Montreal (injection, oral, intranasal, drug checking, peer assistance)
- **Dopamine:** Montreal (injection, oral, intranasal, drug checking, peer assistance)
- **Mobile site:** Montreal (injection, oral, intranasal, drug checking, peer assistance)
- **Spectre de Rue:** Montreal (injection, oral, intranasal, drug checking)

## Ontario

- **Health Sexuality and Risk Reduction Unit:** Ottawa (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral)
- **Sandy Hill Community Health Center:** Ottawa (drug checking, injection)
- **Somerset West Community Health Center:** Ottawa (drug checking, injection, intranasal, oral, peer assistance)
- **265 King Edward:** Ottawa (drug checking, Injection, intranasal, oral)
- **446 York Interim site :** London (Injection, intranasal, oral, drug checking)
- **Fred Victor Center:** Toronto (injection, peer assistance)
- **Parkdale Queen West Community Health Center:** Toronto (injection, intranasal, oral)
- **South Riverdale Health Center:** Toronto (injection, intranasal, oral, peer assistance)
- **The Works:** Toronto (injection)

