**Waterloo Region Supervised Injection Services Feasibility Study**

The purpose of this document is to provide information regarding the Waterloo Region Supervised Injection Services Feasibility Study.

**Background**

Opioid related concerns, including overdose, are growing in Waterloo Region as well as in other communities in Canada. The Federal and Provincial governments recognize the seriousness of the issue. Public Health works with the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy on a Community Opioid Response that includes:

* Overdose monitoring and reporting
* Coordination of harm reduction services
* Addressing issues related to improper needle disposal
* Overdose-related public education

Part of this response includes exploring the feasibility of supervised injection services. On June 6th, 2017, Community Service Committee of Regional Council endorsed a recommendation to explore the need for supervised injection services as one component of a comprehensive harm reduction strategy for Waterloo Region.

**What are supervised injection services?**

Supervised injection services provide a safe and clean environment for people to use their own drugs under the care of trained staff. More information can be found on the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy website: [www.waterlooregiondrugstrategy.ca](http://www.waterlooregiondrugstrategy.ca).

Supervised injection services are being considered because research shows they:

* prevent fatal overdoses
* facilitate access to treatment, recovery and other health and social services
* reduce sharing of needles and the spread of blood-borne infections
* reduce drug use and improper disposal of needles in public places

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The feasibility study includes a mixed methods approach that will be used to reach a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the community and will include a community survey, as well as consultation sessions with key stakeholder groups. Every resident (defined as people who live, work or go to school) of Waterloo Region will have an opportunity to participate in the study in some way.

The information gathered from the study will inform Public Health and community partner decisions about how supervised injection services could be implemented in Waterloo Region.

We appreciate your support in engaging those you work with, support, and provide services for input on supervised injection services. For more information, please contact:

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