

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

JUN 17 2016

Her Worship Lisa Helps  
Mayor of the City of Victoria  
mayormessages@victoria.ca

Dear Madam Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of February 29, 2016, concerning the City of Victoria's plan to establish supervised consumption services. I appreciate your congratulatory words on our government's efforts to resettle Syrian refugees.

I recognize that substance abuse can have devastating effects on the well-being of individuals, families and communities. As Minister of Health, I continually look for ways to keep Canadians healthy and reduce risks and harms to them. For this reason, the Government's approach to supervised consumption sites will be guided by evidence, which in this case is clear—when properly established and managed, supervised consumption sites can save lives and improve health without increasing drug use and crime in the surrounding area.

I note your request for information on how the City of Victoria can apply for an exemption from the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* for a supervised consumption site and the type of information required by Health Canada. I have attached a copy of the Application Form for a Section 56.1 Exemption for Medical Purposes under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* regarding activities at a supervised consumption site. This form contains detailed information on what is required to support your application, including guidance on how to complete the form. As you know, Insite and the Dr. Peter Centre have been in operation for some time and may have useful information on best practices to share with you.

If you have further questions, I invite you to contact Health Canada's Office of Controlled Substances by e-mail at [exemption@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:exemption@hc-sc.gc.ca). Departmental officials are committed to working with applicants to provide guidance on the legislative requirements and assist with the application process.

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I look forward to working with you and other partners across the country to support drug control policies that reduce harm and protect public safety.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Philpott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "P".

The Honourable Jane Philpott, P.C., M.P.

Attachment