

June 26, 2024

Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming and Timmins and District Hospital announce transition of Safe Health Site Timmins operations effective July 1st, 2024

As of July 1st, 2024, operations for Safe Health Site Timmins (SHST) will be officially transferred from the Timmins and District Hospital (TADH) to the Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming (CMHA-CT) Branch.

This follows the service transition notice shared on April 9th, 2024, where it was announced the SHST would move from the Urgent Public Health Needs Site (UPHNS) exemption, to the Consumption Treatment Services exemption, operated by CMHA-CT. As a result of a continued wait for funding and resources, CMHA-CT will not be able to continue with supervised consumption treatment services. However, SHST will remain able to provide other imperative services such on-site counseling, referrals to health services, treatment, harm reduction, education and other support services. The SHST will remain open 7 days a week, from 10 am to 6 pm. The continuance of these other essential services does not negate that a loss of supervised consumption will detrimentally impact the community.

The SHST has consistently demonstrated its effectiveness as an evidence-based solution to connect individuals with treatment and safeguard emergency and health service capacity. Simply put – SHST saves lives. Individuals who rely on the SHST are encouraged to utilize the National Overdose Response Service (NORS) Hotline at 1-888-688-6677, always carry Naloxone and avoid using substances alone.

CMHA-CT will remain in close partnership with TADH regardless of this transition of operational responsibility. Supervised consumption services are just one, vital, part of a larger community drug strategy that includes treatment, education, prevention and enforcement. Alone, this service will not solve the opioid crisis our community faces. Together, alongside many partner agencies, we continue to advocate, operationalize and provide programs and services that aim to create a safer, well community for all. We remain optimistic that the province will move quickly to approve this evidence-based, life-saving service.

Quick Facts:

- On Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, a RED opioid alert was issued due to increased opioid toxicity events in multiple communities. The City of Timmins had previously been in an active YELLOW opioid alert since June 4th, 2024.
- Between January and April 2024:
 - SHST staff responded to 126 overdoses with zero fatalities.
 - Only three of the 126 overdoses (2 per cent) required EMS intervention.

<p>Timmins Site de l'avenue Second 330 Second Avenue 330, avenue Second Suite/bureau 201 Timmins, ON P4N 8A4</p> <p>Tel/tél: 705.267.8100 Fax/Télé: 705.268.8742 Admin. – 705.268.8742 Client Services / Service à la clientèle – 705.267.8202</p> <p>cmhatim@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>Timmins Pine Street Site Site de la rue Pine Elmar Building / Édifice Elmar 85 Pine Street South 85, rue Pine sud Unit 2, Lower Concourse bureau 2, sous-sol Timmins, ON P4N 2K1</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.264.5202 Fax/Télé: 705.264.3011</p> <p>cmhatim@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>Cochrane Site Site de Cochrane 5-233 8th Street, 5-233, 8^{ème} rue Cochrane, ON P0L 1C0</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.272.4245 Fax/Télé: 705.272.6737</p> <p>cmhacochrane@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>Iroquois Falls Site Site d'Iroquois Falls 58A Anson Drive 58A, promenade Anson Iroquois Falls, ON P0K 1G0</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.258.2212 Fax/Télé: 705.258.2145</p> <p>cmhalf@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>Kirkland Lake Site Site de Kirkland Lake 5 Kirkland Street West 5, rue Kirkland ouest Kirkland Lake, ON P2N 1N9</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.567.9596 Fax/Télé: 705.567.5211</p> <p>cmhatmsk@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>Matheson Site Site de Matheson 507 8th Avenue 507, 8^{ème} Avenue Matheson, ON P0K 1N0</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.273.2255 Fax/Télé: 705.258.2145</p> <p>cmhalf@cmhact.ca</p>	<p>New Liskeard Site Site de New Liskeard P.O. Box / C.P. 249 20 May Street South 20, rue May sud New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0</p> <p>Tel/Tél: 705.647.4444 Fax/Télé: 705.647.4434</p> <p>cmhatmsk@cmhact.ca</p>
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- A total of 80 per cent of overdoses required the use of Naloxone, which would have resulted in a fatality without intervention.
 - Acting as a vital doorway to recovery, treatment (opioid agonist therapy) was provided 18 times, and 11 individuals were directly admitted to TADH's Withdrawal Management Unit. Additionally, eight referrals were sent for other external addiction services.
- Safeguarding our health system capacity, basic medical care was provided 156 times, helping support Emergency Department diversion.
- Safe Health Site Timmins opened as an Urgent Public Health Needs Site on July 4th, 2022, in response to a significant increase in opioid-related deaths in our community. With an opioid-related mortality rate of 80.2 per 100,000 in 2020, Timmins has been able to reduce this mortality rate to under 60 per 100,000 through the implementation of services like supervised consumption.
- On January 27th, 2023, CMHA-CT submitted two applications to establish a permanent, provincially funded Consumption Treatment Services (CTS) site. On September 29th, 2023, CMHA-CT received approval from Health Canada, granting CMHA-CT an exemption under section 56.1 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. CMHA-CT is still awaiting approval from the Ministry of Health.

The Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane-Timiskaming (CMHA-CT) was awarded Accreditation with Exemplary Standing in 2023. The organization provides accessible public mental health and addiction care to community members across its catchment area. CMHA-CT's mission is to help people living with, and touched by, mental illness in providing the supports and services needed on their journey to happy and fulfilling lives. This mission is something CMHA-CT strives to accomplish through education and advocating for a caring community where everyone belongs. Further information on CMHA-CT's available programs and services can be found at www.cmhact.ca.

The Timmins and District Hospital (TADH) is a fully accredited community, referral and teaching hospital serving the residents of the City of Timmins and Cochrane District as well as the adjoining areas of the Timiskaming, Sudbury and Algoma districts. The hospital offers a full range of medical, surgical, critical care, maternity, newborn, pediatric, long-term care, mental health and diagnostic imaging services.

For more information contact:

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