

LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT

Greater Sudbury Supervised Consumption Services Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study (SCS-NAFS)

SURVEY WITH PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

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This project is supported and advised by the SCS-NAFS Community Advisory Committee:

Co-chairs: Dr. A. Zbar and Deputy Chief A. Lekun (Greater Sudbury Police Service)

Members: A. Day (North East Local Health Integration Network), B. Dubois (City of Greater Sudbury), Brian McCullagh (Downtown Sudbury), C. Brisebois (Réseau ACCESS Network), J. Gough (Réseau ACCESS Network), Jeff MacIntyre (Downtown Sudbury), Julie Gorman (Sudbury Action Centre for Youth), K. Savage (Réseau ACCESS Network), Lorraine Lafontaine (N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre), M. Quigley (Canadian Mental Health Association), M. Luoma (Downtown Sudbury), P. Nikodem (Health Sciences North), P. MacDonald (Canadian Mental Health Association), R. St Onge (Public Health Sudbury & Districts), R. Rainville (Réseau ACCESS Network), Roxane Zuck (Monarch Recovery Services), S. Lacle (Public Health Sudbury & Districts), S. Calixte (Public Health Sudbury & Districts), T. Campbell (City of Greater Sudbury).

Note: Additional members are being recruited and others may be identified during the study.

Purpose of the study

The study's purpose is to understand the local need for supervised consumption services in Greater Sudbury. Sometimes these are known as safe injection sites. We want to speak with people who would benefit most from these services. Individuals like yourself who inject drugs. Our goal is speak with 200 individuals who inject drugs. We will also be doing a survey with Sudbury residents and speaking with community partners. We want to understand whether people would use the services. We want you to tell us about things that could help or pose challenges in running these programs. We appreciate your participation. It may help develop supervised consumption services for people who inject drugs.

What are we trying to learn?

We want to understand the need for supervised consumption services. We want to understand if these services would be used. We want to understand what location would be best (for example, in a building or mobile). We also want to understand what other services should be provided (for example, primary care and social services).

You are invited to take part in this research study because of your valued perspectives on the local needs and usefulness of supervised consumption services in Greater Sudbury.

What will happen during the study?

You will be asked to complete a one-time 45-60 minute survey. You will not need to give your name. We will be discussing some information about yourself, such as your drug use and injection practices. We want to understand your opinions on supervised consumption services. We also want to understand where these services might be located and what they should look like. We would also like to know how supervised consumption services might be helpful or harmful for people who inject drugs and the community. We will discuss your experiences with overdose, health, HIV, hepatitis C, and drug treatment. I will show you some lists, pictures and a map during the survey to help with your answers. I will read the survey questions to you and will record your answers on a portable computer tablet.

Sample question: What is your drug of choice? (You will be shown a list of potential answers.)

Payment or Reimbursement

If you agree to take part, once you sign the consent form you will receive \$25 for your time doing the survey. This money is yours to keep even if you decide to stop the survey.

Are there any risks to doing this study?

There are few risks involved in participating in this study. You may feel uncomfortable talking about yourself or your drug use. You may worry about how we will react to what you will say.

You do not need to answer questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable and you can stop for a break at any time. You can stop taking part in the survey at any time, without penalty. We describe below the steps we are taking to protect your privacy.

Are there any benefits to doing this study?

The results of this study will determine the future of supervised consumption services in Greater Sudbury. If supervised consumption services are opened, you may benefit from using a safe and legal place to inject drugs. Trained health care providers can immediately assist if you overdose. You would have access to safer injection equipment (needles, cookers, swabs, etc.). And, you may have access to other health or social services.

Confidentiality

Your participation in this study is private. We will not use your name or any information that would allow anyone to identify you. No one but me will know whether you participated unless

you choose to tell them. You may use an 'X' or a nickname when you sign the letter of confidentiality and I will keep it in a locked briefcase. I will record your responses using a portable computer tablet. Any information stored on the computer tablet is password-protected. Without authorized access, no one will be able to unlock the tablet even if it is lost or stolen.

When I record your responses, they will be stored on SurveyMonkey®'s Canadian servers for one week after your interview. These responses can be accessed by certain government agencies under Canadian law. There is little risk of this happening. The risk is no different than if you were using email (ex. Hotmail®) or social media (ex. Facebook®). Your name is not in any way associated to your responses. We will delete your data from SurveyMonkey® after we have moved your data to a secure server at Public Health Sudbury & Districts. We will store all paper files in a locked desk/cabinet at Public Health. Once the study is complete, we need to keep all study data for ten years and then it will be destroyed. These data will not contain information that could identify you. We may use data gathered during the study for future analysis. These results may help Public Health and its partners with program planning and harm reduction services. For this study and any future studies, our team will make sure that we do not risk identifying any study participants when writing reports or making presentations on the study.

Lastly, there is only one situation where I would have to disclose your participation. If you tell me that you intend to commit self-harm, or harm someone else, I am required to immediately contact the Research Officer. I would have to disclose who you are and discuss appropriate next steps.

What if I change my mind about being in the study?

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is your choice to be part of the study or not. You can decide to stop at any time, even after signing the consent form or part-way through the study. If you decide to stop, there will be no consequences to you. You can keep the \$25 for participating whether you complete the entire survey or not. Information provided up to the point where you stop will be kept unless you request that it be removed. Once the survey is complete there will not be an opportunity to delete any responses. If you do not want to answer some of the questions you do not have to, but you can still be in the study. Your decision whether to take part will not affect the way you use or receive services from Public Health Sudbury & Districts. The same is true for any public services offered by any organization in Greater Sudbury.

How do I find out about the Study's results?

We expect to have this study completed by spring, 2020. We will post a summary of the results in locations throughout downtown Sudbury and on the Public Health Sudbury & Districts website, www.phsd.ca. Copies of the summary will also be available at Public Health Sudbury & Districts.

Questions about the Study

If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact the Office of the Chair, Public Health Sudbury & Districts RERC, at 705-522-9200 x 519, or the SCS-

NAFS Research Officer, Dr. Oghene, at E-mail: ooghene@nosm.ca or by phone: (705) 988-1011.

Conflicts of Interest

Some members of the research team come from organizations that support supervised consumption sites in our community. This may be seen as a conflict of interest. No member of the research team, including me, will benefit, financially or otherwise, from conducting this research or from its results. The same is true for any partner organization. Further, an independent third-party will analyze the data. Finally, the study's Advisory Committee includes representatives from many different local organizations. These organizations all help to guide the study. This reduces the ability of any one organization to influence the results of this study. It is our belief that no actual or potential conflict of interest exists about this research study.

The Health Sciences North Research Ethics Board (HSN REB) reviewed and approved this study. The HSN REB consists of people who oversee the ethical conduct of research studies. These people are not part of the study team. If you have any questions about your rights, please call HSN's Research Services Office at, 705-523-7100 x 2409 or email, reb@hsnsudbury.ca. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

You may feel sadness or negative emotions after doing this survey. If that happens here are some links to resources that might help you:

Health Sciences North Crisis Intervention Line, available 24/7 at: 705-675-4760	Mental Health Helpline, available 24/7 at: 1-866-531-2600 www.mentalhealthhelpline.ca
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CONSENT

I have read the information presented in the Information Letter about a study being conducted by Public Health Sudbury & Districts on behalf of the Community Drug Strategy for Greater Sudbury.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions about my involvement in this study and to receive additional details I asked for.

I am aware that my name will not be used in any documents resulting from the study.

I understand that if I agree to participate in this study, I may withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty or loss of services.

I understand that any information I provide will be kept for ten years and may be used for additional research purposes in the future.

I understand I have rights as a research participant and that by signing this form I do not give up these rights.

For my involvement I will be given \$25.00 that I am free to keep even if I choose to withdraw from the study.

I understand that if I have any further comments or concerns about my participation in this survey I can contact the Office of the Chair, Public Health Sudbury & Districts RERC, at 705-522-9200 x 519, the SCS-NAFS Research Officer, Dr. Oghene, at E-mail: ooghene@nosm.ca or by phone: (705) 988-1011, or HSN's Research Services Office at, 705-523-7100 x 2409 or email, reb@hsnsudbury.ca.

I will be able to download and print a copy of this Letter from the SCS-NAFS website, www.phsd.ca/cds. A printed copy will be given to me if requested. I agree to participate in the study.

Name of Participant (Printed)

Signature

Date

(Nickname or "Anonymous" or "X" can be used)

Consent form explained in person by:

Name and Role (Printed)

Signature

Date