

Petition calling on the Saskatchewan government to adequately fund safe consumption/ harm reduction sites, May 2022

This petition was created by members of Grosvenor Park United Church, Saskatoon, Treaty Six, who requested that it be shared with all members of Living Skies Regional Council of The United Church of Canada. It addresses strong concerns with the provincial government's continued failure to fund supervised drug consumption sites, particularly [Prairie Harm Reduction](#) (PHR), and the [Newo Yotina Friendship Centre](#). In 2021 the Regional Council endorsed a national UCC learning session on harm reduction and decriminalization of drugs for personal use. Commissioners to General Council 44 will be considering a proposal calling on the United Church to adopt policy in favour of harm reduction and decriminalization of drugs for personal use.

PHR notes, "Saskatchewan has the highest HIV rate in Canada, which is fueled by injection drug use. This is further compounded by the crystal meth and overdose epidemic that the province is currently facing." Almost 450 people died of drug overdoses in Saskatchewan in 2021. This number continues to grow each year. At a supervised site, people can check whether their drugs are contaminated, access clean needles and medical supervision, and emergency help should they overdose. They can also access counselling and other supports. Media reports include:

[Sask. safe consumption sites appeal for provincial funding](#)

[Medical students push Sask. gov't to fund supervised drug consumption site](#)

Instructions: ([More details are available in this government document.](#))

- Please print the following pages out single sided.
- Make them available to your community, community of faith or community ministry members in a way that lets them ask questions, if at all possible. Harm reduction sites are a difficult topic for some, and sometimes basic information about them isn't well know. We can help our community members learn more.
- Remind people to fill out all the fields using a black or blue pen. Unfortunately, the government does require a full address, even though the petition will be entered into the public record.
- All pages must be sent in to the address below. Scans, copies, and photos of the pages aren't allowed by the government. The page does not need to be full in order to be sent in.
- **Deadline: Please have these in the mail by Thursday May 12, or to the church by Sunday May 14.**

Send to:

Attn: Rev. James Balfour, Broadway United Church, 105 Broadway Ave Regina SK. S4N 1B2

United Church people in Regina will ensure the petition is delivered to the Legislature and brought to the floor by an MLA.

