

Innisfil Community Church - 2018-2019
Our Response To The Opioid Crisis in Canada

People of the Light have an obligation to speak in times of darkness!

We, ourselves, have been rescued from darkness.

And this is one of those times for us to speak up as a church community...a community of faith.

John 12:46 Jesus said: I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

Marc Lewis of The Guardian says:

“Drug overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans under 50.

As a church and as a custodian of the universe and the resources that God has entrusted to us, we **MUST** respond.

And so our church board has attempted in our own small way by creating a **4 point plan**, similar to that accepted national by health workers.

The four part plan includes:

1) Prevention 2) Harm Reduction 3) Enforcement 4) Treatment

1) Prevention

- Our first priority in PREVENTION is to provide active, **high energy, quality, value based programs that engage kids and youth** and affirm their significance

- Emphasis will be made on developing a **positive self image and self concept**

- **Modelling and mentoring by adults and older youth** will be active components in our programming

- We will endeavour to support youth who face issues such as **insecurity, guilt and rejection**, resulting from broken or single parent families

- These programs will involve periodic **educational components** related to the inappropriate drug use, and its impact.

But parallel to this we must take personal action— —

Opioids are normally found in the currency of pain killers.

Many have been **prescribed** these as you faced serious injuries where pain had to be controlled. The problem is that those unused pain medications often end up sitting in your medicine cabinet and become accessible to kids, grandkids, friends of your family who visit or thieves who feed their habits through break and enters.

Church family challenge to participate in the prevention stage of the opioid crisis.

The **Medicine cabinet clean out challenge**. Bring your old medications, your old prescriptions to church next Sunday. We will carefully and completely dispose of them as recommended by health professionals.

Or, you can drop them off at your local pharmacy.

2) Harm Reduction

- We will participate in area harm reduction strategies including **encouraging accessing “naloxine kits”**
- Families of known drug users will be encouraged to **secure personal Narcan Kits** for their own potential response.
- **Safe injection sites** may form part of our local community strategies.
- Known drug users may be referred to the Health Unit for **free sterile needles**.

3) Enforcement

- We will operate as a drug, alcohol and smoke free facility.
- When drugs are located on persons (especially in youth programs), we will be request the person found with drugs to present the drugs to us for disposal or leave the premises in order to protect other program participants. The safety of our workers, leaders and participants is most important.

4) Treatment

- When opportunities arises and there is a both a need and a willingness to accept treatment, we will recommend the facilities of Teen Challenge facilities, in London, On and Aurora, On.