



A previous version of this email included an error regarding new clinic hours. Apologies! This has now been corrected below.

Dear HAMSMaRT and Keeping Six Supporters,

This newsletter will be slightly different as we have major changes to report! June was a month of BIG changes in both HAMSMaRT and K6's future and we will take this time to inform everyone about our updates, forgoing our usual staff spotlights and other highlights. We will be back to our usual programming next month!

In solidarity (and in constant change),
HAMSMaRT & K6

☆ **CHANGE OF LOCATION AND HOURS** ☆

As some of you may know, HAMSMaRT and K6 have moved locations multiple times throughout the years due to multiple different reasons. We have already started transitioning to a different space, however, this time services will look different. Below is a summary of the changes. We will also keep you up to date on these changes as they occur on our website and our Instagram. Thank you for your continued support!

HAMSMaRT

HAMSMaRT is transitioning all clinical supports to a new location, sharing space with the Shelter Health Network clinic. We want to highlight the incredible support of Good Shepherd and Shelter Health staff, including but not limited to Dr. Karen Busche, Hugo Better, and Emily Dakers. We hope this partnership will only improve client health care as our organizations work together.

This location will not currently include previous services provided by K6 staff, including lunch, community space, donations, and kit-making. Clients will continue to be able to access harm reduction and safer sex supplies, as well as continue to access all other medical care they have been previously receiving.

New Location: 370 Main St E, entrance off the back of the building parking lot

As of right now, we are continuing to operate out of the current 660 Main St E location on Tuesdays. All Thursday clinics have already moved to the new location at 370 Main St E. The last clinic at 660 Main St E will be June 30th.

Clinical practice will begin at the new location on July 6th.

The new schedule will be:

Mondays* - 12pm-4pm.

Thursdays - 10am-4pm with physicians onsite after 12pm.

***note that Tuesday clinics will be replaced with Monday clinics. Drop-ins will no longer be available**

This is a big change and will take us, our clients, and our allied organizations some time to adjust. Please give us a call or email clinics@hamsmart.ca if you have any questions.

Keeping Six

We continue to have access to the 660 Main St E space until the end of September and K6 staff will continue making meals in the kitchen for the PROSPR program as well as outreach efforts. Art programs at New Vision church will also continue on Wednesdays.

All future arts programming will move to Theatre Aquarius as K6 partners with Open Heart to bring more art opportunities to the community. Details for this change are unknown yet but we will keep you updated! All other K6 programming will be paused for the time being. Keeping Six members are using this time of change to regroup, reorganize, and redesign their approach to the work they do!

In Summary

While this update means that we will be moving towards a model that separates our clinical work from our community work, we also hope that it will bring new partnerships, outreach opportunities, and continues to let our clients access the healthcare they have come to rely on.

We will continue to update you all on any changes as they come.

Open Letter to Minister Jones: Re-open supervised consumption sites in Ontario

Dear Honourable Minister Jones,

When the initial nine supervised consumption sites (SCS) were forced to close due to the *Community Care and Recovery Act* on March 31, 2025, concerned Ontarians, health experts, and front-line workers warned of the impending impact the closures would have. We knew that without SCS, our communities would be less safe, and more people would be at-risk of death from opioid poisoning.

Since then, we have heard countless reports of increased public drug use occurring in communities where SCS were closed. Libraries, public transit, churches, and drop-ins have become front-line responders to a crisis they have neither the training nor resources to address.

The impact on emergency services and acute care has also been severe. In the first 6 months after the initial nine SCS were closed, Ontario paramedics saw a 69.5% increase in calls for opioid poisoning. Emergency departments saw a 67% increase in ER visits for opioid poisoning. When opioid poisonings are responded to safely in an SCS, our health system is saved more than \$1,600 each time. Instead, our health system will bear these costs because more cost-effective services no longer exist in our communities.

ACTION ITEM: Open Letter

While we have your attention we would like to link below an Open Letter to Minister Jones to re-open safe consumption sites in Ontario. We have highlighted both through our work and through previous newsletters how important these sites are and would love you and/or your organization to sign the below letter and show your support. Thank you!

SIGN HERE: [Open Letter to Minister Jones: Re-open supervised consumption sites in Ontario](#)

Donate Now!

We encourage you to donate to HAMSMaRT and make a difference in your community. Your donations will be used to purchase food, medical supplies, hygiene products and toiletries, and other outreach and clinic supplies. **You can donate by clicking the button below.** You can sign up for a **one time donation or a monthly donation**. All donations to HAMSMaRT are tax deductible and you can request a donation letter from us for large amounts. We look forward to working with you to provide those in need with the great healthcare and daily living essentials that we all deserve!

[Donate Here](#)

We would like to acknowledge and thank our current primary funders: the Hamilton Community Foundation, Ontario HIV Treatment Network, the Karen & Peter Turkstra Family Foundation, Incite Foundation for the Arts, the Canadian

Mental Health Association, James A. Burton & Family Foundation, and The Hainsworth Trust. Thank you and we hope to continue to nurture our partnerships together!

Additionally, we would like to thank the everyday folks who donate \$5, \$10, or \$15 through our website as a one time donation or a monthly donation. We know that making ends meet can be hard and we appreciate you giving back to your community through us - in whatever way you can! However large or small, your continued donations have allowed us to keep supporting our clients and community members. It is because of you all that we are able to give people a safe place for their medical care and wrap-around needs. Thank you to all of our amazing donors!

July Newsletter - What's Next?

On next month's newsletter you can expect from us:

- dates for August Hep C Testing - new month, new opportunities to test!
- meet two new staff members!

The Hamilton Social Medicine Response Team (HAMSMaRT) is a nonprofit organization of health providers and community organizers working to integrate clinical practice, critical analysis and political action. We work to advance the idea and practice that health is inherently political and health care providers must play a role in bringing about change in the social and material conditions which determine health.

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