

Drug Toxicity Crisis Leadership Summit 2023 - Update

Presented To:	City Council
Meeting Date:	October 24, 2023
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Development

Report Summary

This report provides an update regarding the planning for the Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to Council's Strategic Plan regarding the priority to "Create a Healthier Community and effect change within the community to improve health, economic and social outcomes for all citizens". This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with the Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs will be funded through the existing surplus in Children and Social Services in 2023. It is estimated that the total cost for the Summit will be approximately \$140,000. Costs will be shared with Public Health Sudbury and District.

Background

At the City of Greater Sudbury Council Meeting of June 13, 2023, City Council received a presentation from the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario. Dr. Dirk Huyer, the Chief Coroner for Ontario presented data and provided insights into the trends regarding acute drug toxicity and opioid toxicity deaths in Greater Sudbury.

City Council heard that rates of opioid toxicity death in Greater Sudbury have increased by 193% since 2018, more than 3 times the increase in Ontario and 38% higher than the rest of Northern Ontario. In 2022, while rates declined in Ontario and Northern Ontario, Greater Sudbury saw a further increase.

Following a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Community Drug Strategy, Council directed staff to collaborate with community partners to plan and execute a summit for community leaders to develop actionable measures to reduce the number of deaths related to drug toxicity.

City Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is experiencing the highest drug toxicity mortality rates in the

province;

AND WHEREAS elevated mortality rates are worsening in Greater Sudbury despite numerous multisector substance-use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement efforts;

AND WHEREAS addressing this complex crisis requires an intensification of leadership action commitments from multiple fronts to reverse the trend and save lives;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury (CDS – CGS) strongly endorsed the need for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis;

AND FURTHER THAT the Executive Committee, in recognition of the all-of-society complexity of the drug toxicity issue, strongly supported that the summit be planned and executed based on principles of inclusion and diversity, including the involvement of persons who use and are affected by substances;

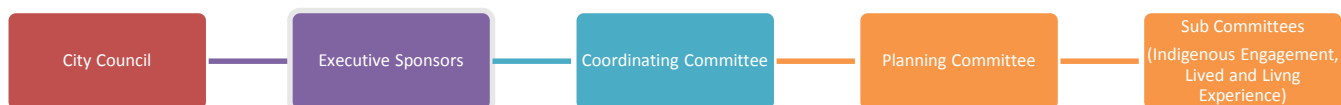
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury endorse the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the CDS – CGS for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis, and request an information update, no later than the October 10, 2023, Council meeting, which would include describing:

- *Terms of Reference*
- *Planned summit objectives,*
- *An approach for documenting practices in other communities that could be adapted for use here to reduce morbidity.*
- *Details such as location options, timing, and potential costs/financing requirements*
- *Expected summit outcomes and other relevant information pertinent to the execution of this summit.*

AND FURTHERMORE, that City staff provide support for this effort as required.

Status Update

In response to the direction from Council, city staff and community partners have created a governance structure and have been diligently working towards the development of the Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs. Membership on committees includes representation from: City staff; Public Health Sudbury & District; Greater Sudbury Police Services; community social services agencies and persons with lived or living experience.



The following purpose, goals and objectives have emanated from the initial work of the Coordinating Committee:

SUMMIT PURPOSE

The summit is designed to be a forum for community leadership* to examine the current magnitude of and response to the drug toxicity crisis in Greater Sudbury, with the goal of determining actionable next steps, processes and structures to mitigate harms and ensure accountability.

*Community leadership is broadly defined and includes the leadership of those affected by substance use.

SUMMIT GOALS

The Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs aims to:

- Address the escalating drug toxicity crisis in our region.
- Explore innovative strategies to prevent drug-related harm by bringing together key stakeholders from various sectors.
- Develop a comprehensive and collaborative approach to tackle this complex issue.

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate knowledge exchange of research, insights, and best practices in mitigating the individual and societal harms of the complex toxic drug crisis, including consideration of harm reduction, treatment, prevention, and enforcement.
- Create actionable consensus and commit to concrete next steps that will prevent drug toxicity related harms and death.
- Identify short, medium, and long-term goals and commit to addressing structural inequities, fostering environments where individuals can thrive.
- Create a structure responsible for the advancement of recommendations from the Summit, ensuring accountability.

Best and Other Practices

Public Health Sudbury and Districts is completing an extensive environmental scan and literature search regarding practices in other communities, nationally and internationally. Part of the scan includes noting other activities in this space, such as safe drug supply discussions,

Logistics and Planning

Currently, the Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs is scheduled for December 7th and 8th, 2023. The event will be hosted at the Edgar Leclair Community Centre in the Greater Sudbury community of Azilda. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 250 participants from the community, representing a diverse and multi-disciplinary audience. The format for the event will include keynote speakers, panel discussions and action tables to ensure that specific, measurable action items are included as an outcome of the Summit. The Summit will consider international, national, pan-northern and local perspectives.

A communications plan is being developed to ensure that the community is informed of the Summit and expectations regarding the goals and objectives of the Summit activities.

Next Steps

The Summit on Toxic Drugs will take place on December 7th and 8th, 2023. A outcome report and associated action plan will be provided to City Council in partnership with Public Health Sudbury and District.

Appendices

Greater Sudbury Summit on Toxic Drugs – Planning Committee Terms of Reference

Resources Cited

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=49883>

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=50453>