



# Jennie Stevens

MPP for St. Catharines

December 11, 2018

Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk  
Niagara Region  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2V 4T7

Dear Ms. Norio,

I am writing this letter to formally express my support for Positive Living Niagara's application for a permanent overdose prevention site in Niagara.

Between 2016 and 2017, Niagara saw a 335 percent increase in opioid overdoses. It became immediately clear that Niagara needed a comprehensive public health strategy to tackle this growing epidemic. The temporary overdose prevention site unanimously approved by St. Catharines City Council was the first step in combatting this crisis, and the second step is ensuring this site be allowed to operate permanently.

If we are to meaningfully tackle the opioid crisis in Niagara, it requires a permanent facility, staffed with mental health and addictions counsellors, EMS workers, and public health professionals. This facility will connect those struggling with addiction to vital resources for housing, counselling, mental health and addictions support, all while preventing overdoses in the process. In just a few days of operation, I am confident that Positive Living Niagara has already created such a facility, and for that reason I am happy to endorse their proposal for a permanent overdose prevention site.

Every drug overdose is a preventable death. Elected representatives have a duty to ensure that we are doing everything in our power to stop these lives from being lost. Your support will send a strong, unified message that Niagara is committed to end the opioid crisis in the most effective way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennie Stevens".

Jennie Stevens  
Member of Provincial Parliament, St. Catharines

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#### Community Office

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