



Statement from Bob Saroya, M.P., On “Safe” Injection Sites

*For Immediate Release
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Markham, ON – Conservative MP for Markham-Unionville Bob Saroya said the following about so-called “safe” injection sites:

“Several weeks ago, I wrote a letter to each Markham councillor asking them whether they would support a ‘safe’ injection site in Markham. Any response other than a definitive ‘no’ is unsatisfactory for me and all residents of Markham-Unionville. I have yet to receive such a reply.

Residents from different communities told me they fear these injection sites are normalizing illegal behaviour and creating an unsafe environment for children. They are worried these sites will decrease their property value. Furthermore, they are offended that the Liberal government is wasting taxpayer dollars on purchasing drugs and paraphernalia for addicts.

The Liberal Health Minister Jane Philpott (MP for Markham-Stouffville) is an enthusiastic supporter of these injection sites. Her government is pursuing an aggressive pro-injection sites policy. Not only are Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver approving these sites, but smaller municipalities are consulting with residents, in Hamilton, ON and Kamloops, BC. What is to stop Minister Philpott, and her political allies on Markham’s council, from opening one in her own community?

It is Minister Philpott who instructed her department officials to “loosen” requirements in the Respect for Communities Act to ensure there are no “unnecessary barriers” in the way of approving injection sites.

Markham council will have the final say on whether or not a ‘safe’ injection site is located in Markham. I am extremely concerned that, if presented with a proposal to open a ‘safe’ injection site in Markham, council will approve this request. As the federal Member of Parliament, I have a duty to advocate on behalf of my constituents regarding this issue, since it overlaps in municipal and federal jurisdiction.

Markham residents can expect to hear more from me on this issue, not less. I will not stop until I am satisfied that there will be no ‘safe’ injection site in Markham.”

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