



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **South Riverdale Community Health Centre to close keepSix CTS on March 21, 2025**

**TORONTO, ON - March 19, 2025:** As directed by the province, South Riverdale Community Health Centre (SRCHC) has been developing a plan to close keepSix, the consumption and treatment site at 955 Queen St. East. The closing date is now scheduled for end of day Friday, March 21, 2025. Staff have been diligently preparing for this closure by providing overdose response training, referrals, and planning for the continuity of wrap around care for their most vulnerable service-users while keeping the community informed.

“Over the past eight years, we have had many ups and downs but, through it all, we have reached thousands of people and saved hundreds of lives. Our compassionate staff, including community health workers, social workers, nurses and physicians, have made countless referrals to health and other services, such as housing support and mental health treatments, and provided team-based primary care, counselling, vaccinations, foot care, wound care and more,” said SRCHC CEO Shannon Wiens.

“Grief and loss are not feelings that are unusual for our staff, clients and family members who use, work in or support our services and many are feeling the loss at the impending closure of keepSix,” continued Wiens. “We are leaning on each other and remembering our work is never done – we will just need to do it differently in the coming year.”

As part of that work, SRCHC is co-lead of the East Toronto HART Hub, which will open in April 2025. More details will be coming in the weeks ahead, but once open, the HART Hub will provide healthcare, day programming, social services, and housing support. Clients will have low-barrier access to primary care, mental health and substance use supports with direct referral to housing and other support services.

In preparation for opening the new service, SRCHC has been informing CTS clients of the options available to them, including how to access the supervised consumption services that remain open. Staff have also been conducting overdose response training on a weekly basis with clients and their families, as well as interested community members and local business owners and their staff.

“We know that closing keepSix will not end the toxic drug crisis,” said SRCHC director of community engagement and communications, Gabriella Skubincan. “As part of the plan to close the site, we launched a social media campaign to help educate people about the actions they can take if they encounter someone using drugs, discarded needles in their neighbourhood, or someone in need of emergency medical services.”

-30-





For further information, media may contact: [media@srhc.com](mailto:media@srhc.com)

## **Background:**

The East Toronto HART Hub involves support from 13 organizations, each of which may play differing roles in service delivery:

- South Riverdale Community Health Centre (Co-Lead)
- St. Michael's Homes (Co-Lead)
- Alpha House
- Anishnawbe Health Toronto
- Comprehensive Treatment Clinic
- COTA Health
- Fontbonne Ministries
- Gerstein Crisis Centre
- Michael Garron Hospital
- The Neighbourhood Group Community Services
- The Neighbourhood Organization
- The Salvation Army
- 2-Spirited People of the 1<sup>st</sup> Nations
- WoodGreen Community Services

