

RE: Sanguen's Community Health Van

October 2, 2023

To Whom it May Concern

The [Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy](#) is a coalition of partner agencies and members of the lived experience community, who are working to implement a 4-Pillar drug strategy in the municipalities of Wellington County and the City of Guelph. As a collaborator with Sanguen, we are pleased to offer a letter of support as part of Sanguen Community Health Van's delegation to the County of Wellington.

Sanguen Health Centre delivers services to those in our community who face multiple barriers to housing, health, and social care due to their substance use, poverty and lack of connection to traditional services. Sanguen offers low-threshold mobile health care and social support through their Community Health Van program in 12 locations across the City of Guelph and the County, in addition to a number of specialized health care services such as blood borne infection testing and treatment.

In recent years, the WGDS has been working with Sanguen and other local services to improve access to Harm Reduction within the County, and has seen the positive impacts that the Community Health Van has had on the lives of people who use substances in Wellington County. Sanguen has developed innovative and collaborative approaches to support community members throughout Wellington County to ensure residents have access to life-saving supplies.

Given the small size and tight-knit nature of rural communities people can feel highly visible and at risk of stigmatization when accessing services. To counter this, the Community Health Van has built partnerships with community organizations and has carefully selected locations where it parks to provide as safe and welcoming an environment as possible. The Community Health Van staff have also worked to build relationships and trust in rural communities, and to demonstrate the difference of the Van's harm-reduction approach from services people may have encountered in the past.

By bringing specialized health and social care directly to the County, individuals have access to consistent, trauma-informed care to meet their needs. The continuation and support of Sanguen's Community Health Van will increase access to life-saving services and the Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy is proud to contribute this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Jean Hopkins

Manager, Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy