



We are pleased to announce the launch the **Downtown Guelph Welcoming Streets Initiative**. This five month pilot project is an innovative partnership between the Guelph Police, the Downtown Guelph Business Association, the County of Wellington, and the Guelph Community Health Centre, designed to provide targeted street outreach services to individuals and businesses in Guelph's downtown core.

For some time, Guelph downtown business owners have been sharing their concerns about vulnerable individuals who are found in crisis or exhibiting concerning behaviour in the downtown area. Similarly, Guelph Police receive calls about vulnerable individuals who are struggling with complex issues in the downtown area, but who do not always require the intensity of police intervention. These individuals are often struggling with addiction and/or mental health challenges, homelessness, and are also disconnected from the health and social service system.

The Downtown Guelph Welcoming Streets Initiative will provide outreach support via a Peer Outreach Worker, who will work to engage and build positive, trusting relationships with vulnerable individuals, to connect them to the services they need (i.e. primary care, mental health support, emergency housing), to provide crisis intervention, and provide education and support to business owners. As an employee of the Guelph CHC, the Outreach Worker will work in a close and integrated way with the existing Specialized Outreach Services (SOS) team.

We look forward to updating the community further as this project as it unfolds.

"The Guelph Police Service is very pleased to partner on this initiative, as together we respond to challenges in our community. Through this pilot we are supporting those who need assistance, but also ensuring we maintain a safe and enjoyable downtown."

Jeff DeRuyter, Chief of Police

"The Downtown Guelph Business Association is very happy to support this project. We believe that by working together we can make a difference in the lives of people struggling with poverty, addictions and mental health issues. And by doing so, we can make our public places safer and more welcoming for everybody."

Marty Williams, Executive Director, Downtown Guelph Business Association

"The Guelph Community Health Centre has operated in Guelph's vibrant downtown since we opened our doors in 1988. Improving health and wellbeing for our community members who face barriers is our mission, which also includes ensuring a welcoming and inclusive neighbourhood space. Our relationships with our business neighbours is also incredibly important to supporting a strong and vibrant city. For these reasons, we are so proud to be working alongside our community partner to bring this Welcoming Streets Initiative to our community."

Raechelle Devereaux, Executive Director, Guelph Community Health Centre

Adrienne Crowder, Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy Manager



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I humbly acknowledge that we reside on the ancestral and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation of the Anishnawbek Peoples.

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