THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

AHWC'S SAFER CONSUMPTION SITE NEWSLETTER

TUESDAY–SATURDAY | 11 A.M. - 6:45 P.M. **AHWC.CA** **366 HENRY AVENUE**

Reaching our goal, changing lives

The Peer Workers of the **S.A.L.U.T.E. Advisory Circle** are at the heart of this project. Their leadership and vision helped bring the site to life over two and a half years.

Their lived and living experience, wisdom and commitment to community have guided every stage. Their kindness, openness, courage and fortitude shape our services and the values we uphold.

We are deeply grateful for their advocacy, insight and belief that everyone deserves compassionate, culturally safe care. We are proud to walk alongside them in this historic initiative.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

A historic beginning

On August 11, 2026, we proudly opened the doors to Manitoba's first Indigenous-led Safer Consumption Site, the first Indigenous-led site of its kind in Canada.

Led by the Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre of Winnipeg, this initiative was built through collaboration, community leadership and a shared commitment to compassionate, culturally safe care for people who use substances.

Small team. Meaningful connections.

In our temporary outdoor space, Substance Use Experts (SUE's), nurses, a crisis counsellor and a Cultural Integration Lead offer supervised consumption, drug checking, wound care, harm reduction supplies—and a smile.



"I am so glad this place is here. We need more of them."

— Constituent

Meet Mirella

PROGRAM MANAGER, SAFER CONSUMPTION SITE



Winnipeg, Treaty 1, is my home. As an Afro-Indigenous Red River Métis woman and SCS Program Manager, working in community fills me with pride.

My family has been deeply affected by colonial systems and substance use. Decolonizing the way we look at health care for all relatives is important heartwork. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help better those systems.

I bring more than nine years of experience supporting people living with addictions, homelessness and food insecurity. I humbly follow in the footsteps of harm reduction champions Mitch Bourbonniere and Margaret Byrans, carrying that commitment into the care we offer every day.

Chii Miigwech

FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

Sunshine House
Substance Consulting
Main Street Project
Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
Ka Ni Kanichihk
Long Plains First Nation Security
Downtown Community Safety Partnership (DCSP)

Connecting Relatives to Care

Our team provided wound care, drug testing strips and consumption supervision; made warm hand-offs to the Program of Assertive Community Treatment and referrals to the Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinic; connected a relative with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner; and helped people navigate services.

Our first weeks in numbers

AUGUST 11–SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Total visits	**1,409**
Unique constituents	**305**
Overdoses Reversed	**6**
Health & social services connections	**37**
Harm reduction supplies distributed	**10,360**
Security incidents	**0**
EMS/WPS calls*	**1**

*EMS call was not substance related; no transport.



366 HENRY AVENUE

Help meet everyday needs

Support relatives facing hardship. Donate water, juice, healthy snacks, ready-to-eat foods, coffee, tea, hygiene products, winter jackets, warm clothing or grocery/store gift cards.

Arrange a donation: Mirella 204-399-4047