

# Media Release



## **Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy Releases Plan for Action December 19, 2022 - For immediate release**

TIMISKAMING – The Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy (TDAS) steering committee is pleased to announce the launch of its Strategy document, a plan for action to prevent and reduce the harms associated with substance use in Timiskaming. The strategy is being released on December 20, 2022.

Timiskaming and Northern Ontario have long experienced higher rates of substance use, hospitalizations, emergency department visits and deaths as a result of substance use when compared to the rest of the province. Since early 2021, over 20 community organizations and community members have been coming together to understand the local needs as they relate to substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and community safety, and develop a plan for action.

Sectors represented on the TDAS membership include mental health and addictions treatment services, Indigenous services, child and family health services, social services, municipalities, community members, family health teams, hospitals, school boards, police, and public health. In May of 2021, the TDAS established a People with Lived and Living Experience Advisory Committee to learn from community members' expertise on the subject matter and further support an evidence-based approach.

Work has been carried out to gather data, review literature, consult with the public, collaborate with service providers, and to learn from the many other community drug strategies around the province to produce this Strategy. The Strategy outlines what needs to be done to help improve the current situation regarding substance use harms. Some of the actions are already underway and others are long-term. The Strategy document and related information can be found on Timiskaming's Health Unit's website.

Community members are invited to find out how they can get involved. The TDAS Steering Committee and working groups are open to feedback and suggestions and encourage everyone to read the Strategy document.

[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)

For more information

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