

November 3, 2019

Re: Community Sharps Disposal Bin

To Whom It May Concern:

On the afternoon of Friday, October 11th a small focus group was conducted with three individuals with lived experience with substance use who reside in West Nipissing and four staff members, two from the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit and two from The Alliance Centre. The purpose of this two hour session was to determine an appropriate location for a community sharps bin in the Municipality of West Nipissing and outline a suitable education plan upon the installation of the bin. Considerations relating to the location of the sharps bin included: accessibility (e.g., sidewalks, location to where people use substances), lighting, cameras, proximity to a residential area and safety.

The following three locations were deemed suitable:

- **First Choice:** Between King Street and Levesque Street, and Queen Street and Trans-Canada Highway (close to Michaud & Levesque building is most preferred).
- **Second Choice:** John Street (close to 4 Seasons Variety Store).
- **Third Choice:** Between Main Street and King Street (close to Don's Pub and Grill; preferably near alleyway that is close to RBC).

Upon consultation with Jay Barbeau, CAO of West Nipissing, it was deemed that the first proposed location was appropriate. It was suggested that the **corner of Queen Street and Main Street** be brought forward to council for final approval. We are asking that council please discuss the proposed location and make a decision on whether the community sharps bin can indeed be installed here.

In addition, the Health Unit and The Alliance Centre are also proposing the following education campaign to accompany the installation of the sharps bin.

- Radio ads (prepared by individuals with lived experience).
- Distribution of posters in English and French (3 styles for 3 different audiences).
- Insertion of information cards into harm reduction kits (at needle exchange sites).
- Outreach efforts (i.e., talking to individuals on the street to inform them of the location).
- Information session/booth at a local event to discuss the sharps bin and answer community questions.

The Health Unit is more than happy to support the development and implementation of the above educational approaches.

At this time, the Health Unit is asking the following of council:

- Finalize the location of the community sharps bin using the suggested recommendations.
- Have a cement slab measuring **28" x 20" x 4" thick** be poured at the finalized location.
- Connect with the Health Unit to coordinate the installation of the community sharps bin with ECS Cares.
- Install a garbage can in close proximity (not directly next) to the community sharps bin.
- Notify the Health Unit of the proposed plan for sharps pick-up, disposal and bin maintenance.
 - The Health Unit will connect you with any organizations or agencies to initiate pick-up and maintenance.
 - Provide city staff with appropriate training and proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for pick-up and maintenance of the sharps bin. Although this is the responsibility of the municipality, the Health Unit can support with training and information, as needed.
 - If a partnership between a local agency and the Municipality is formed for bin maintenance and/or pick-up, an agreement/contract must be signed. The Health Unit can provide you with a sample agreement should you require one.
- Provide funding and/or a radio spot for ads to advertise the community sharps bin to foster awareness about the bin's purpose (2-3 week radio spot would be suitable).
- Fulfill other requirements as they arise.

Note: Determining the final location of the sharps bin and pouring a cement slab will need to occur in a timely fashion to ensure installation prior to the winter of 2019.

Should you have any questions or concern regarding any of the above information please kindly contact Katharine O'Connell at 705-474-1400 ext. 5322 or via email at katharine.oconnell@healthunit.ca

Thank you,

Katharine O'Connell
Community Health Promoter
North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit