

Transfer of National Emergency Strategic Stockpile

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on an opportunity to obtain equipment currently under custodial care within the Community Safety Department for the Public Health Agency of Canada. Pending direction from Council, the transfer of this equipment, can occur immediately upon appropriate signing of a transfer agreement.

Background

In March 2019, the Community Safety Department was contacted by the Emergency Preparedness & Response Officer for the Ontario region of the Public Health Agency of Canada. They were looking to reclaim and possibly transfer some historical emergency preparedness equipment and were reaching out regarding the location of a portable hospital that was within the City of Greater Sudbury. The Government of Canada has maintained a National Emergency Strategic Stockpile since 1952 in response to Cold War threats. Since 1965, by Cabinet decision, the Government has allowed the provinces to utilize these supplies during times of peace. Being managed through the Public Health Agency of Canada, National Emergency Strategic Stockpile assets have been distributed across Canada so that each province had items they could use in the case of an emergency.

Equipment known as a Mobile Emergency Hospital was stored at a Ministry of Health storage facility at the McFarlane Lake Provincial complex. Upon assessment of the equipment by the Community Safety Department personnel in March, it was determined that there is use for some of this equipment.

Additionally, there was a second set of equipment known as a Casualty Care Unit which was intended to be used to help the “walking wounded” in the event of an emergency. This equipment was transferred to custodial care of the City in 2002 and is currently stored in the Capreol Paramedic Station. This equipment was not part of the initial review. However, on July 12, 2019, the Community Safety Department was contacted again, indicating that the Public Health Agency of Canada would like to transfer the contents of the Casualty Care Unit.

Analysis

The items that Public Health Agency of Canada indicated were available for transfer include portable stretchers, wool blankets, a variety of towels, older first aid bins, and two older model generators. Community Safety Department determined they could

find a use for these items and would be able to continue to store them. There would be a minimal cost to transfer the remaining items from the hospital and Central Ambulance Communications Centre to the Capreol Paramedic Station with the use of a moving company. There would be no ongoing additional costs in continuing to store these items.

Conclusion/Next Steps

The Community Safety Department would like to transfer the available items from the Public Health Agency of Canada to the City of Greater Sudbury. By way of resolution associated with this report, there is a request of Council to allow the Chief/General Manager of Community Safety to enter into an agreement to transfer the items.

Resources Cited

None