

Background

As a follow up to the 2018 budget process, City Council had further questions regarding possible funding sources, such as the downtown Business Improvement Association, in regards to the Used Syringe Recovery Program (Program). Greater Sudbury funds two distinct components for the Program. A total of 8 syringe recovery bins have been funded for safe disposal at designated sites in the downtown core of Greater Sudbury. Furthermore, Council approved an ongoing allocation of \$72,600 to the Sudbury Action Centre for Youth (SACY) for regular pick up and disposal services of used syringes.

Statistics

As was recently reported by Public Health Sudbury and District, the total number of needles that were distributed in 2017 was 1,210,563 with a 63% return rate, as reported at the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts Meeting on February 15, 2018. https://www.phsd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/18-02_Full_BoardEffect_BOH_Meeting_Package_2018-02-15.pdf

SACY started its pick up service in the month of November 2017 and collected 12,889 used syringes in that month after cleaning up previously identified priority areas. The number of syringes picked up by SACY in December 2017 was 3,493 along with another 719 syringes for January 2018, citing the snow as covering up many of the hotspots that were problematic leading into the winter months.

Information Services

SACY has been doing further outreach in the community, providing presentations to community organizations regarding safe disposal methods. In the month of January, SACY provided four of these presentations in the community and will continue to do so upon request. They are also working on an information campaign regarding the safe disposal of syringes to divert them from unsafe disposal practices in areas where they are finding them in garbage and blue boxes.

Downtown Business Improvement Association

The Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA) has verbally committed to a \$2,000 contribution to the discarded syringe problem for the 2018 budget year. These dollars will be used to offset the amount allocated by Council for the services that SACY is providing for 2018.

Community Drug Strategy

The Community Drug Strategy is continuing to organize community partners to ensure that proper messaging and best practices continue to be researched and implemented regarding this problem. A media event is being planned for the spring once the rest of the syringe recovery bins have been installed.

Next Steps

The Social Services Division will continue to report to the Community Services Committee on an annual basis with an evaluation of the syringe recovery services that are being provided. Furthermore, the Social Services Division will continue to review the identified Council allocation to lessen the municipal levy impact for 2019.

References

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1204&itemid=13779&lang=en>

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