

Lisa Slomke

From: Township of Alberton <alberton@jam21.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 5:37 PM
To: 'Brandy Coulson'; Lisa Slomke; Township of LaVallee; Bridget Foster; Peggy Johnson; townshipofmorley@gmail.com; lakeofthewoodstwp@tbaytel.net; rainyriver@tbaytel.net
Cc: 'Dave Coats'; ehoskins.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Subject: Township of Alberton Resolution 2017-164 requesting improvement to Needle Exchange Program (NEP)
Attachments: Alberton Resolution 2017-164 seeking NEP Improvements.pdf

Good afternoon, Everyone:

Attached is a copy of Resolution 2017-164 passed by Council for the Township of Alberton on July 12, 2017, which is being provided to all municipalities in the Rainy River District and to the Rainy River District Municipal Association for endorsement and support, and to the Medical Officer of Health at the Northwestern Health Unit and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care for support and action.

If you have any questions or comments for Council, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dawn

Dawn Hayes, CMO
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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON

Session Date: July 12, 2017

Resolution No.: 2017-164

Moved By: [Signature]

Seconded By: [Signature]

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS the Needle Exchange Program (NEP) is a part of the Northwestern Health Unit's *Harm Reduction Program*, which harm reduction strategy provides sterile and clean equipment to people who use drugs in order to decrease the spread of blood-borne infections, such as Hepatitis B and C, and HIV, among people who use drugs;

AND WHEREAS, according to the NWHU website, the premise behind the NEP is that helping to keep people who use drugs healthy keeps our community healthy and increases the likelihood that individual will seek treatment;

AND WHEREAS a detrimental by-product of the NEP as administered is that public places and spaces throughout our communities – including schools, roadways and parks where children play and families gather – are being littered with used needles, thereby putting the health and safety of our residents is put at risk, as well as the health and safety of employees who are required to clean such sites as well as those who take time and initiative to collect discarded needles and trash for proper disposal;

AND WHEREAS, while Council acknowledges the transmission rate from a needle stick is extremely low, it does not condone educating students about what needles are and what they are used for as early as Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten;

AND WHEREAS private methadone programs delivered by Ontario Addiction Treatment Centres have failed to restore the health and well-being of methadone program participants;

NOW THEREFORE Council for the Township of Albion hereby seeks to have the Northwestern Health Unit protect the health and safety of our communities at large, as well as those who participate in its harm reduction programs, by requiring NEP participants to return used or dirty needles to the dispensary site in order for them to acquire new clean needles in exchange;

AND FURTHER THAT the current program be modified to include the closing of all private clinics and the locating of methadone centers in hospitals where proper supplementary health services can be readily arranged, including access to laboratories, counselling services, clinic appointment access for birth control and for other health conditions related to substance abuse;

AND FURTHER THAT sharps containers be required to be available in restrooms in all public buildings, as well as in restrooms of businesses where public access to restrooms is permitted, to provide easy access to same for appropriate and safe disposal of needles;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Medical Officer of Health at the Northwestern Health Unit, to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, to all Rainy River District municipalities and the Rainy River District Municipal Association for support.

Pecuniary Interest	Recorded Vote	Council Member	Nay	Yea
		HAMMOND, Mike		
		FORD, Mike		
		JOHNSON, Jennifer		
		SPUZAK, Peter		
		WOODS, Wayne		

[Signature]
REEVE

CARRIED: ☒

DEFEATED: ☐