



TOWN OF GANDER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Gander Placing Needle Disposal Units in the Community

(Gander, NL – April 3rd, 2019)

The Town of Gander is in the process of placing two needle disposal units in the community. The public safety initiative began a couple months ago when the idea of offering proper needle disposal in the community was brought forward. Council sought support and was provided two disposal units by the Department of Health and Community Services in partnership with the College of the North Atlantic.

Council has emphasized that this initiative is not a reflection of a large problem of improper needle disposal in Gander. However, it is an acknowledgement that, while the number of needles found in the community has not been significant, they are present, and the problem is growing globally and needs to be addressed proactively.

One unit has been installed on Bennett Drive and the location of the other is to be determined. Others may be added if deemed necessary.

“Council is pleased to participate in such a vital public safety initiative and is thankful to Honourable John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services for his assistance in acquiring the disposal units. While we will continue to advocate for improved mental health and addictions services in Gander and area, with a view to addressing the issue at its source, we are focussed on protecting our residents from harmful needles while also offering support and safe disposal options to users.” – *Mayor Percy Farwell.*

Residents are reminded that, if they discover a needle on public property, they may contact the Town of Gander at 651-5938 to arrange disposal. It is also important for residents, including children, to be familiar with the risks of improperly discarded needles and the safe way to collect and dispose of them. Users of injection drugs are encouraged to become educated on the proper disposal of needles and are reminded that there is support available for mental health and addictions issues by calling the Health Line at 811.

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