

JAMESTOWN HEALTH EQUITY CENTRE

Mover: Matthew Shoemaker

Seconder: Rick Niro

WHEREAS opioid and other illicit drug use is a significant public health issue in communities across Canada, including the City of Sault Ste. Marie; and

WHEREAS the health harms of illicit drug use include not only addiction and overdose, but also an increased risk of blood-borne infections; and

WHEREAS Algoma has a high burden of hepatitis C, a blood-borne infection which is strongly linked to injection drug use, based on information presented by the Sault Ste. Marie and Area Drug Strategy; and

WHEREAS per provincial data visualized by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, the level of overdoses in this area suggests it may benefit from accessible harm reduction services such as needle exchange; and

WHEREAS on April 23rd, the Council of the City of Sault Ste. Marie committed to "continuing to work with and support the collective efforts of Algoma Leadership Table, Sault Area Hospitals, Group Health Centre, Algoma Public Health, Sault Ste. Marie Police Services and the Drug Strategy Committee to collectively address the opioid crisis and its consequences"; and

WHEREAS the Algoma Leadership Table is currently conducting an assessment of the needs and programming available in the community to determine where resources should be focused; and

WHEREAS the assessment by the Algoma Leadership Table will review the needs and programming not just in the City of Sault Ste. Marie, but across the District of Algoma;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Sault Ste. Marie request that City Staff work with the Algoma Leadership Table and engage other community partners as necessary to assess the need for harm reduction and health equity services specifically in Jamestown, in addition to the current needs assessment being undertaken by the Algoma Leadership Table, and report back to Council.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Staff work with the Algoma Leadership Table and other community partners as necessary, to provide Council with an estimate of the cost for the establishment of said harm reduction and health equity centre.