

# Council Report

**Report Date:** June 1, 2018  
**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2018

**To:** Council  
**From:** Mayor Bob Simpson  
**Subject:** Clean Team Update

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## Purpose

To seek Council support for a grant to assist the Quesnel Clean Team to enhance their 2018 discarded needle pick up program pilot.

## Background

We have been working with the Quesnel Clean Team (formerly "Green Team") to regularized and formalize their needle and litter pick up program throughout the City. The Clean Team assisted us with the first annual Community Clean Up and, through a grant obtained by Seasons House, have two peers conducting regular early morning sweeps of the West Quesnel and Downtown business areas. Since these sweeps have begun the publicly reported incidences of discarded needles has declined dramatically.

The City and Northern Health have assisted the Clean Team to obtain a grant for equipment and promotional materials. City staff are now working with the Team to purchase the equipment and find suitable locations to store the equipment and operate out of two locations, one downtown and one in West Quesnel.

The ultimate desire is to have a fully funded, ongoing Clean Team that has formal partnerships with the City and our Business Associations, like many other communities. The Team would conduct regularly scheduled early morning sweeps to pick up discarded needles and also pick up litter in areas that are not serviced by City crews. These clean up sweeps would occur before businesses open. The Clean Team would then be available on a limited on call basis to respond to calls about discarded needles, however a community and business education campaign will be undertaken to educate people on how to safely handle and discard needles in order to minimize the call demand for the Clean Team. During regular business hours, Public Works will continue to respond to complaints about discarded needles on City property.

As part of the Clean Team program, needle collection boxes will be placed in problematic areas throughout the City in an effort to reduce the number of discarded needles, enhancing the Team's efforts. The Clean Team will assist the City to identify locations for these boxes (funded under the Healthy Communities grant) and empty them during their sweeps. This part of the program will enhance the needle box program the City has already initiated in all our public washrooms.



The Clean Team is currently funded for two peers and we would like to expand the program to provide funding for two more peer workers for the remainder of the year in order to conduct four regular early morning sweeps of both West Quesnel and Downtown and to provide on call services and a community education program. The peers are provided a stipend for their work hours. The cost of the two additional peers for the remainder of the year is \$7500. Northern Health and BC Housing have committed to partner with this program, so the City's contribution to the pilot would be \$2500.

### **Recommendation**

THAT Council approves \$2500 be allocated from Council Initiatives to partner with Northern Health and BC Housing to fund the Quesnel Clean Team 2018 Discarded Needle Pick-Up Program Pilot.

### **Statutory Requirements**

### **Council Policy**

### **Strategic Objective**

### **Financial Implications**

### **Background**

### **Attachments**

1. BC Centre for Disease Control – Harm Reduction Best Practices – Needle Distribution
2. BC Centre for Disease Control – Harm Reduction Best Practices – Needle Disposal

### **Concurrence**

### **Options**