

REGION OF OTTAWA CARLETON

RÉGION D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT

RAPPORT

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 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 19 April 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Director, Solid Waste Division
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAW 44-96 FOR THE COLLECTION,
 REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE -
 BAN OF USED NEEDLES, INSULIN PEN TIPS AND LANCETS
 FROM HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend that Council approve the further amendment to By-Law 44 of 1996, as outlined in Annex A, to prohibit the collection of used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets, effective 01 July 2000.

INTRODUCTION

Regional Council, at its meeting of 12 June 1996, approved By-law 44 of 1996 for the collection, removal and disposal of waste. The By-law includes provisions for proper packaging and disposal of used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets, with household waste. These provisions, however, are not always followed resulting in puncture injuries to collection and material processing personnel, and creating health and safety concerns. In preparing to prohibit used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets from being disposed of in household waste, the Department has developed several alternatives for residents. These alternative programs will be fully in place by 01 July 2000.

DISCUSSION

“Take It Back!”

The *“Take It Back!”* program includes 36 partner pharmacies which currently accept needles from members of the public for safe disposal. There are about 220 pharmacies within the region. The

Environment and Transportation Department's Solid Waste Division and the Health Department are working with the Ottawa-Carleton Pharmacists' Association to maximize pharmacy participation in the "Take-it-Back!" program. One possible initiative is the distribution of an introductory personal needle clipper/container to people purchasing needles at "Take-it-Back!" partner stores. The Solid Waste Division will be conducting a recruitment blitz of the pharmacies this spring.

Drop Boxes

The Regional Health Department will be installing up to 10 drop boxes throughout the Region of Ottawa-Carleton for the public to deposit used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets. The drop boxes are accessible, secure depositories for these materials, which are then collected by the Health Department for safe disposal. The drop boxes will be located with a view to providing coverage in high use areas such as the downtown core, as well as geographic distribution across the Region.

Special Waste and Mobile Depots

The Region's Household Special Waste Depot, located at the Trail Road Waste Facility, accepts a wide range of household hazardous materials from residents for safe disposal. Residents can take used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets, along with the other accepted materials (such as herbicides, antifreeze, pesticides, oil based paint, and cleaning products) to the Household Special Waste Depot.

Five mobile Household Special Waste depots will be operating throughout the Region this year. The first mobile depot will be held on 06 May 2000 at the Trim Road Maintenance Facility, 1125 Trim Road, Cumberland. Residents will be able to deposit their used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets along with a wide range of hazardous materials, some of which are mentioned above.

Advertising for the Special Waste Depot and mobile depots will specifically mention that used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets can be brought to the depots.

CONSULTATION

The Department has had in-depth discussions with CUPE Local 503, the Regional Health Department, the Ottawa-Carleton Pharmacists' Association, the Region's waste hauling contractors and materials processing contractors, the Canadian Diabetes Association, the Canadian Liver Foundation, and the Community Care Access Centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to this by-law change.

CONCLUSION

Currently the Solid Waste By-law allows for properly packaged used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets to be put out in the garbage for regular waste collection. Sometimes these materials are deposited unpackaged into the garbage, which has led to health and safety concerns on behalf of collection personnel. A comprehensive campaign centred around the Region's "Take It Back!" program, the Household Special Waste depots and special drop boxes, will include the message not to put used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets out with the garbage. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Solid Waste By-law be changed to prohibit used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets from household garbage.

*Approved by A.M. Fowler on behalf of
Pat McNally, P.Eng.*

KHW/mm

Attach. (1)

BY-LAW NUMBER ____ of 2000

SOLIDWASTE MANAGEMENT: (S.4.2.34) BEING a by-law to amend By-law 44 of 1996 as amended by By-law 57 of 1997 and By-law 42 of 1999 (Waste Collection By-law)

WHEREAS the Council of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton enacted By-law 44 of 1996 establishing a system for the collection, removal and disposal of Waste within the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton in accordance with the Regional Municipalities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. R.8, as amended;

AND WHEREAS By-law 44 of 1996 was amended by By-law 57 of 1997 and By-law 42 of 1999;

AND WHEREAS Regional Council deems it desirable to further amend By-law 44 of 1996 in order to address operational changes in accordance to the report presented to it on 09 May 2000;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton ENACTS as FOLLOWS:

REVISIONS:

By-law Number 44 of 1996 as amended by By-law 57 of 1997 and By-law 42 of 1999 is hereby amended as follows:

1.1. Section 1(xxiv)(c) is amended as follows:

“or” is deleted from the definition;

1.2. Section 1(xxxiv)(d) is amended as follows:

“hypodermic needles” is deleted and “Sharps” inserted in its place and “, or” is inserted at the end of the phrase;

1.3. A new Section 1(xxxiv)(e) is inserted:

“bandages, dressings or other infected materials.”

1.4. Section 1(xlv) is deleted and a new definition is inserted:

“Sharp Items” includes items such as plate glass, sheet metal and other objects capable of cutting or puncturing but does not include Sharps.

1.5. A new definition is inserted at Section 1 (xlvi)

“Sharps” includes used needles, insulin pen tips and lancets.

and the definitions from “Small Commercial Establishment” to “White Goods” are reenacted and renumbered accordingly.

1.6. Section 36 is deleted and replaced with the following:

All Sharp Items shall be placed in an approved rigid container, puncture-proof disposable container or cardboard box and marked as to contents and placed out separately for collection, but shall not be placed in a non-returnable plastic bag.

1.7. Subsection 39 (d) is deleted and replaced with the following:

Pathological Waste.

EFFECTIVE DATE

2. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the 1st day of July 2000.

ENACTED AND PASSED this _____ day of _____ 2000.

Regional Clerk

Regional Chair