

Community Partnership Agreement

Proposed by: SMDHU, Injury and Substance Misuse Prevention/Harm Reduction Program

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**To: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Background:**

Exchange Works is the needle exchange program of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. This program is a harm reduction program aimed at reducing the risks of injection drug use to both those who choose to use as well as their families, partners and communities. These programs reduce the risk of transmission of blood borne infections such as HIV, hepatitis B and C.

Exchange Works provides injection drug users with clean needles, filters, water for injection, tourniquets and alcohol swabs. In addition to these items, we also provide biohazard bins for the collection of used syringes by the injection drug user to encourage the safe return of these needles to the health unit for disposal.

The return of used syringes for safe disposal is an extremely important part of our work. As is true with most needle exchange programs, the number of needles returned is less than the number given out. There are a variety of factors and barriers that contribute to this challenge. It is our goal to make it easier for users to discretely and safely discard their smaller containers and needles throughout our communities. This practice reduces risks for municipal workers collecting waste in public areas as well as the general public. Many cities across both Canada and the United States have placed disposal units in both outdoor and indoor locations.

**Agreement:**

1. The SMDHU or XX will purchase 2 wall mounted to be installed in the public washrooms.
2. The SMDHU or XX will purchase replacement liners for these wall mounted units.
3. The health unit will provide training to XX staff, as appropriate, regarding handling the replacement liners.
4. The XX is responsible for bringing the full liners back to the SMDHU office, currently located at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The SMDHU will coordinate disposal of the biohazardous waste.

Per: Per:

Name: Name: Carolyn Shoreman

Title: Title: Director, Community and Family Health

Date: Date: