



Regional Wellness Response Program

c/o Needle Distribution Service
Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority
54 Queen Street, P.O. Box 1300
Sioux Lookout, ON P8T1B8
Tel: 807.737.6191
Fax: 807.737.6195

If your community would like assistance from our Needle Distribution Service (NDS), **this letter when signed represents an invitation from Chief and Council for our NDS to help your community.** This invitation letter along with the Needle Distribution Program Outline form, must be faxed back to 807.737.6195.

RE: INVITATION LETTER

Due to an increase of opiate drug abuse/addiction and associated harm(s) in First Nation communities of the Sioux Lookout Zone, increased needle usage and needle sharing (a primary mode of transmission for blood-borne infections), and increase in Hepatitis C Virus (HCV); the Sioux Lookout Zone Chiefs in Assembly passed a resolution in 2011 mandating SLFNHA to develop a Regional Opiate Drug Abuse Strategy.

Consequently, the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority established a Regional Wellness Response Program (RWRP). One of the RWRP services is Harm Reduction and Health Promotion (i.e. Needle Distribution Service).

The Needle Distribution Service:

- Offers supportive consultation to those who would like to develop community-based Needle Distribution Programs
- Provides a guideline manual to help communities develop their own community-based Needle Distribution Programs
- Packages sterile injection drug using equipment into individual kits
- Provides other safe drug using equipment (i.e. snorting kits) upon request
- Arranges shipping of supplies to communities
- Is of no cost to communities

Community-based Needle Distribution Programs can then give out kits to their patients and/or clients following guidelines. Programs can operate out of nursing stations, Band Offices, community agencies, addiction treatment centres, or elsewhere to increase accessibility to safe equipment.

I, Chief _____ on _____, understand that by signing this letter, it is a formal invitation and permission for the Needle Distribution Service to assist your community.

For more information or to ask questions please contact the Regional Wellness Response Program Assistant at 807.737.6191 or RWRP Coordinator at 807.737.6188. For more detail on other RWRP services please view SLFNHA's website www.slnha.com.