

May 4, 2020

Communities of Western Newfoundland

Re: Update on Residential Drop-off Service at Transfer Station Facilities

Good Day,

At the Western Regional Service Board meeting of April 29, 2020, the Board had a lengthy discussion on the residential drop-off service at our facilities. It was decided at that meeting not to re-open our transfer stations for residential drop-off until such time as there is a change in Government's message of staying in our own bubble as well as the suggested guidelines set forth by the CMO regarding physical distancing.

It is believed that opening any of the transfer station facilities to residential drop-off, will entice residents to become more publicly mobile than necessary. Add to this the temporary suspension of many community clean-up events, significant increases in the amount of traffic would be expected. It is being suggested by Government that if we have patience and stay the course, we can flatten the curve together and see a potential relaxation of some restrictions.

The good news is that, according to the April 30th Provincial Government COVID-19 briefing, a plan to lessen restrictions by Government has begun. The Board has initiated discussions with Government officials and other Regional Service Boards in review of its temporary suspension of residential drop-off service. We are working diligently towards ensuring the safety of the residents and staff within our region. We are reviewing this on a daily basis based on the information available and will advise accordingly as decisions are made.

Meanwhile, our message to residents is to stay safe, have patience, practice responsible waste management by setting aside any accumulated clean-up material until such time as residential drop-off can be accommodated by our sites.

Sincerely,

Western Regional Service Board and Staff