

# **By-law to enter into an agreement with First Nations**

## **Background**

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation (AAFN) Formerly Whitefish Lake Indian Reserve No.6, located adjacent to the Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) across Junction creek, are developing their land to foster economic growth. They are constructing a business park on the reserve land that has been in planning for several years. They have collaboratively worked with other levels of government and agencies to secure funding and approval.

For this project to proceed they needed City's assistance for water and wastewater servicing. The City is already providing water to the community. Servicing the business park within the reserve will require constructing a sanitary sewer system connecting to Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant as it is very close in proximity, less than 300 m away with a creek crossing.

AAFN worked with the City from the initiation stage of the project for technical assistance and guidance and our Staff worked closely with them in getting this project to fruition from planning, to design, and finally to construction.

This new wastewater collection system consists of sanitary sewer collection pipes, a new sewage lift station within the AAFN's land and a forcemain connecting the lift station to Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant as shown in figure 1.

The cost of the design and construction of the project is the responsibility of AAFN.

The City's assistance is required to operate and maintain this wastewater collection system once the construction is complete as the operation and maintenance of a wastewater collection system requires specialized trained and skilled staff. On behalf of AAFN the City will operate and maintain this wastewater collection system at cost paid for by AAFN as described in the agreement and amended on annual basis to reflect inflation as part of water and wastewater rates, as amended and approved by Council on annual basis. The agreement includes:

- That all sewage flows coming to Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant must comply with the City's Sewer Use By-Law 2010-188 to protect the environment, residents and the wastewater treatment system from dangerous conditions, damage, breakdown and contamination.
- That the City has the right to terminate the agreement.
- That AAFN carry appropriate liability insurance.
- That AAFN shall pay the City a wastewater fee as established in the City's water and wastewater policy and rates 2018-45 by-law as amended time to time.

This agreement will be reviewed every five years, and describes activities that our water and wastewater staff will undertake and highlights roles and responsibilities of both parties. It contains provisions to protect the Walden Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City during the maintenance and operation of this wastewater collection system. The

This agreement is a testament of City's collaboration with the First Nation working together to benefit both communities and marks an important milestone in moving forward with economic and business partnership and development. It also highlights for both communities the importance of protecting the environment, and our waters.

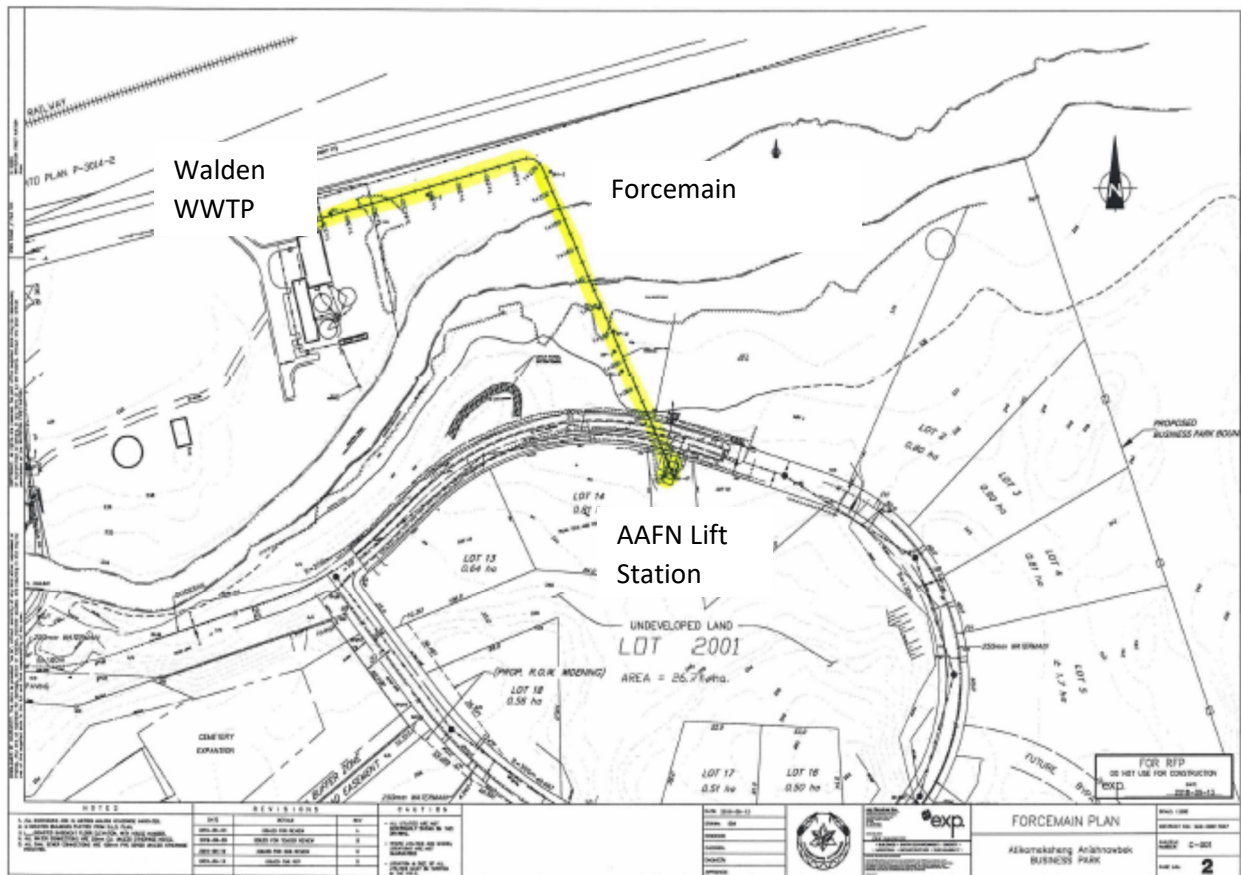


Figure 1: AAFN Sewer Connection to Walden WWTP