

## **RESOLUTION**

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury support and approve the extension of the 2018-2019 Residential Inflow & Infiltration Subsidy Program ( previously known as “Preventative Plumbing Subsidy Program” ) to the end of 2019 and that the previously allocated funding of approximately \$485,000 be approved for the years 2018 and 2019 from the Capital Financing Reserve Fund – Wastewater and THAT the City of Greater Sudbury support and approve program enhancement funding to residential property owners in the City of Greater Sudbury as outlined in this report

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If approved, there will be no new budget implications as funding for the 2018-2019 program will be provided for from the Capital Financing Reserve Fund – Wastewater. The remaining program funds of approximately \$485,000 would be available for the years 2018-2019. Staff will review the community participation rate of the Program and provide a recommendation to Council for future funding program scope and duration as well as funding allocations beyond 2019

## **BACKGROUND**

At the Operations Committee meeting of October 5, 2015 staff provided a status update on the progress of the development of the Preventative Plumbing Subsidy Program and approval was given to utilize the remaining program funds to extend this program for the years 2016 and 2017

The original Program was initiated in 2010 and was available to the citizens of Greater Sudbury as an incentive to aid citizens in protecting their residential properties from sewer backup and flooding. Since 2016 the City has received over 91 applications and has issued approximately \$69,000 in subsidy funding to assist homeowners

A report on the Water & Water Master Plan presented to Council in 2016 by the City’s consulting firm, WSP, informed the City that storm water inflow and infiltration currently entering our sanitary sewer system is causing unnecessary overloading and damage to our infrastructure system. A recent survey conducted with residents of Greater Sudbury confirmed that most citizens are unaware of sewer connection requirements as described in our Sewer Use By-law 2010-188 and the negative impacts these types of connections can cause to themselves and their neighbours. Staff feels that an enhancement to the existing subsidy program will be beneficial to the residents of Greater Sudbury and at the same time key in helping with the reduction of negative impacts of inflow & infiltration on the City’s wastewater infrastructure and ultimately further protect the local natural environment.

## KEY IMPROVEMENTS

Water/Wastewater Compliance staff utilized two summer students in 2017 to visit and survey each residential home in 'hot spot' areas of higher concern regarding potential sewer back up / flooding areas to provide I & I education and outreach materials. The summer students visited 3,991 residential homes in Azilda, Lively, Coniston and parts of Chelmsford

Throughout the interaction and communication with these area residents it was discovered that many residential properties do not meet the criteria of current by-law, furthermore, many of the property owners had no preventative measures in place to protect themselves from sewer back up and/or flooding. In many instances property owners wanted to protect their properties and come into compliance with City by-laws but they found the costs a barrier, even with the current (50%) preventative plumbing subsidy program in place

After reviewing and considering the input from property owners and reviewing what other municipalities are offering in regards to subsidies, staff is recommending the following improvements are suggested:

- Rename the current program to “Residential Inflow & Infiltration Subsidy Program”;
- Offer a larger subsidy, 75%, for the installation of backwater valves and sump pumps for residential properties with a maximum of \$1,500 for backwater valves and \$1,875 for sump pumps
- Offer 100% subsidy for the installation and maintenance of eaves trough extenders ( maximum of 4 ) to all residential properties;
- Offer 50% subsidy for the purchase and installation of rain barrels ( maximum of 2 per residential property ) with a maximum of \$60 per rain barrel
- Offer 50% subsidy for the lining of private sanitary sewer lateral lines to all residential properties with a maximum of \$1,100 per residential property

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The objective of the proposed amended program is to broaden the financial assistance available to all residential property owners on the City of Greater Sudbury that have or could potentially experience the following:

- flooding of residential basements as a result of sewer system backups during wet weather events;
- flooding of residential basements due to illegally connected sump pumps;
- flooding of residential basements as a result of improper roof lead drainage paths away from the foundation;
- flooding and /or sewer backup due to damaged/blocked private sewer lateral lines;

The proposed financial assistance will assist Greater Sudbury residential property owners with the cost of performing the above objectives and provide improved protection for their homes and families. This initiative will also help reduce the inflow and infiltration of storm water into the City sanitary sewer system and help reduce negative impacts on CGS wastewater systems

## IMPLEMENTATION and ADMINISTRATION

Greater Sudbury residential property owners interested in applying for the new Residential Inflow & Infiltration Subsidy Program (RIISP) would be able to gather information from the City's website, contact Water/Wastewater staff directly, or any Greater Sudbury Community Service Centre to obtain an information package and application form

The residential property owner would obtain at least two quotes from licensed contractors for the proposed work to the private plumbing system. The property owner will be permitted to hire any of the licensed contractors to complete the specified approved work but the subsidy amount will be based on the lowest quote. A confirmation letter will then be issued to the property owner/applicant, indicating the **pre-approved subsidy amount**. Applicants will have six months to complete their project installations. Subsidy values will be set as approved by Council for the following installations:

- a maximum of \$1500 (75%) for the installation of an approved backwater valve;
- a maximum of \$1875 (75%) for the installation of an approved sump pit/pump;
- a maximum of \$40 (100%) for the installation of eavestrough extenders (maximum of 4 per property);
- a maximum of \$60 (50%) for the installation of an approved rain barrel ( maximum of 2 per property);
- a maximum of \$1000 (50%) for the lining of a private sanitary sewer lateral service;

Verification of proper installation of approved backwater valves and sump pumps would be conducted through completion of the required pumping and building permit for said installation. Subsidy rebate payments will not be released until the City's Building Services department has completed their permit inspection and approved the installation. For rain barrels and eavestrough extenders residents would have to submit original receipts from the material supplier and proof of the installation of the eavestrough extenders and rain barrels in order to receive the rebate payment. Staff would conduct a property inspection to verify the proper installation of the eavestrough extenders and rain barrels before authorizing the subsidy rebate payment. Lining of a private sanitary sewer lateral service would require confirmation that a Connection Permit from the City had been obtained, a licensed contractor was hired and paid to complete the lateral line work, and that a "pre" and "post" camera inspection was submitted to the City proving the proper installation

### **FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION**

It is recommended that the City increase the funding formula previously approved by Council in 2015 and use the remaining contribution of \$485,000 towards the program in 2018 and 2019. Staff will report to Council prior to 2020 on the program uptake statistics and provide recommendations for the future of the program at that time

### **CONCLUSION**

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury support and approve the extension of 2018-2019 Residential Inflow & Infiltration Subsidy Program ( previously known as "Preventative Plumbing Subsidy Program" ) to the end of 2019 and that the previously allocated funding of approximately \$485,000 be approved for the years 2018 and 2019 from the Capital Financing Reserve Fund – Wastewater and THAT the City of Greater Sudbury support and approve program enhancements to funding to residential property owners in the City of Greater Sudbury as outlined in this report