

Town of Canora	Sewer Blockage Policy		
Date	Revision details	Department	Resolution
April 16, 2019	Original document	Utilities	19-99

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to specify property owner and Town of Canora responsibilities and establish guidelines for actions to be taken in the event of a sanitary sewer blockage.

Scope

This policy applies to all properties that are connected to the Town’s sanitary sewer system.

Definitions

“**Sewer lateral**” refers to the pipe between the municipal sanitary sewer main and the building to which it is connected. Sewer laterals drain into a sewer main.

“**Sewer main**” refers to the municipal sanitary sewer main located in a public right-of-way and/or easement. Sewer mains drain into a sewer lift station or treatment facility.

“**Town**” refers to Town of Canora.

“**Town Foreman**” refers to Senior Public Works Operator or designate.

Policy

The owner of a property connected to a sewer main shall be responsible for the cost of servicing, clearing, removing blockages or maintaining in any way the sewer lateral or sewer connection that serves the property; including any portion of the sewer lateral or sewer connection which is under, upon or over public property up to the point of connection to the Town sewer main.

The Town shall be responsible for servicing, clearing or maintaining sewer mains.

When the Town receives notification from a property owner regarding the impairment in operation of a property owner’s sewer lateral, it will be the property owner’s responsibility to contact a sewer contractor to clear or clean out the sewer lateral.

The property owner is responsible for paying any contractor for all works completed on a sewer lateral.

If it is determined to the satisfaction of the Town Foreman that tree roots caused a sewer lateral blockage, the Town will reimburse the property owner 50 per cent of the cost of the clearing to a maximum contribution of \$150. Reimbursement to the property owner will only be made upon the Town receiving an invoice from an approved sewer contractor that indicates the exact cause of the blockage, a confirmation that the sewer lateral was cleaned with a cutter of the same size as the diameter of the sewer lateral and proof of payment.

If it is determined to the satisfaction of the Town Foreman that freezing caused the sewer lateral blockage, the Town will reimburse the property owner 50 per cent of the cost of the clearing to a maximum contribution of \$150. Reimbursement to the property owner will only be made upon the Town receiving an invoice from an approved sewer contractor that indicates the exact cause of the blockage, a confirmation that the sewer lateral was cleaned with a cutter of the same size as the diameter of the sewer lateral and proof of payment.

If it is determined by the Town Foreman that the blockage was not caused by tree roots or freezing, the Town will not assume responsibility for the cleaning, repair or associated costs.

The Town will not reimburse the cost of sewer cameras or videos, rental invoices, installation of or replacement of clean-outs, warranties, drain cleaners, contractor mileage or licence fees.

If a sewer lateral is cleared and a blockage or back up continues, the property owner or sewer contractor shall contact the Town to request a check of the sewer main.

The Town will not reimburse a property owner for more than two sewer cleanings at a property in a 12-month period.

If a sewer cleaning is required more than twice in a 12-month period as a result of tree roots, the Town Foreman shall discuss with the property owner the potential corrective options. The Town will reimburse the property owner for 50 per cent of the lesser of:

- a) the cost of corrective option chosen by the Town Foreman and incurred by the property owner, or
- b) the cost of the corrective option not chosen by the Town Foreman but incurred by the property owner.

Any replacement or relining of a sewer lateral must meet the Town's specifications. To be eligible for reimbursement, any replacement or relining must be authorized in advance by the Town Foreman.

Under *The Municipalities Act*, the Town is not liable in an action based on nuisance, or on any other tort that does not require a finding of intention or negligence, for any loss

or damage arising, directly or indirectly, from any public works, including streets, or from the operation or non-operation of a public utility; therefore will not assume any liability for any sewer back up damage, loss or clean-up resulting from failure of the sewer infrastructure regardless of cause. Property owners should contact their insurance company regarding any such damages.

