

New utility provides security for stormwater systems

Penticton has a system of pipes underground to move rain and melting snow away from our roads and grounds where it can cause flooding. The cost to operate and maintain this system is currently funded through property taxes but the City is proposing to make it a separate utility that funds itself like sanitary sewer, water and electricity.

“Many communities are introducing a separate utility to fund their stormwater systems,” says Mitch Moroziuk, General Manager of Infrastructure. “Local governments have to juggle many competing priorities when making budget decisions. By creating a utility, we can ensure this critical infrastructure has the investment it needs to serve the community, today tomorrow.” In addition to funding the operations and maintenance needs of the stormwater system, the utility will also make it possible to provide the funds to replace aging infrastructure, build new infrastructure and protect our creeks.

“Our stormwater systems empty into our creeks and are part of the overall system for managing runoff and providing flood protection,” says Moroziuk. “With the utility, we can create a dedicated fund to repair the flood protection infrastructure and restore our creeks to a more natural state.”

Phased approach

The City is recommending that the utility be phased in over seven years. In 2018, a portion of the cost would be removed from your property taxes and added to the new stormwater utility. The amount would be gradually increased until 2025 when the full cost of the stormwater service would be charged through the utility. Still to be determined is how the rate will be structured. Staff looked at the



approach in several other cities and put forward a recommendation for a flat fee.

Flat Fee or Tiered Flat Fee?

“We can keep it really simple and charge all properties the same flat fee or we can tier the flat fee depending on the type of property,” says Moroziuk. “We’re looking for the community to give us their feedback on how they would like to

proceed on the fee structure if the utility goes forward.”

The City is in the early stages of engagement on the utility. Staff hope to have feedback gathered and recommendations prepared by the end of March. More information about the proposal and opportunities to get involved is available at shapeyourcitypenticton.ca.

New stormwater utility at-a-glance

The City needs \$2.5 million each year to fully fund the stormwater sewer system. Staff are planning to reach this level of funding over seven years. Option one below shows the approximate fee per year if the City implements a single flat fee and option two shows the approximate fee per year if the flat fee is tiered

according to several property types. There are 16,082 properties currently served by the system. Of these properties, 14,168 are not directly connected and 1,914 are directly connected to the system. Properties that are directly connected will also pay a premium of approximately 30%.

Option 1 – Flat Fee

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All Property Types	\$10	\$30.3	\$50.6	\$70.9	\$91.3	\$111.6	\$131.9	\$152.2

Option 2 – Flat Fee Tiered by Property Type

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Single Family	\$10	\$30.3	\$50.6	\$70.9	\$91.3	\$111.6	\$131.9	\$152.2
Multi Family (<4 units)	\$16	\$48.6	\$81.1	\$113.7	\$146.2	\$178.8	\$211.4	\$243.9
Multi Family (>4 units) Per unit	\$5.3	\$16.2	\$27.0	\$37.9	\$48.7	\$59.6	\$70.5	\$81.3
Multi Family (Stratas) Per strata	\$5.3	\$16.2	\$27.0	\$37.9	\$48.7	\$59.6	\$70.5	\$81.3
Business / Light Industry	\$20.3	\$61.5	\$102.7	\$143.9	\$185.1	\$226.3	\$267.5	\$308.8



There's snow joke about snow and ice control!

Heavy snow fall plagues Canada and Penticton is no different. With snow falling three weeks earlier, it is important for the City to maintain its snow removal process. Each winter season, the City of Penticton's Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 230 km of road to a safe and passable condition. Despite the efforts of a highly motivated snow removal crew, conditions can deteriorate and roads can become treacherous. Motorists are advised to practice defensive driving and exercise caution at all times.

Priorities and standards

When it comes to snow removal the City has three different priorities:

Priority 1:

- Major routes (arterials)
- Steep hills
- Roads serving emergency routes to hospitals and fire equipment
- Local and district collectors

Service for this priority commences within 12 hours of the end of the storm event.

Priority 2:

- Residential streets
- School zones
- Minor transit routes

Service for this priority commences within 24 hours of the end of the storm event.

Priority 3:

- Remainder of the roads in the City

Service for this priority commences within 48 hours of the snow fall ending, with the exception of the weekends and statutory holidays which will not be included in the 48 hours.

It takes approximately 48 hours to

Snow Removal Fast Facts



The City has a **24 hr** on-call staff that performs a snow check at 3:00 am and if required, commences snow removal operations from **4:00am-11:00pm**



The City is fitted with **5** large trucks equipped with plows and sanders, **2** one-ton dump trucks with plows and sanders, and other miscellaneous equipment



The City of Penticton is responsible for maintaining approximately **230 km** of road to a safe and passable condition



To protect our neighbours and residents, property owners are required to clear sidewalks before **11:00am** on the morning of the snow fall

reach the residential streets and cul-de-sacs from the time it stops snowing. If snow falls again within that time, crews must return to streets with a higher priority.

All complaints will be investigated within one working day of receiving the complaint and ice control measures will be put in place if required.

Ice control operations

Ice control consists of sodium chloride and/or sand and will begin once it is determined that icy conditions exist or are in the immediate forecast.

Ice Control on Priority 2 & 3 (Other Surface Types) will be provided through a complaint based process.

Extreme weather conditions

In the event of extreme/abnormal winter weather or road conditions caused by severe or repetitive storms or emergency conditions, the Public Works Manager may authorize overtime or additional City equipment and outside resources.