

26 comments on “Water By-Law Review”



1. **Gary Dikkema** says:

November 10, 2014 at 4:16 pm

Why nothing about frozen water lines? Or better yet the many occurrences of brown water.



• **admin** says:

November 14, 2014 at 12:54 pm

Thank you for your comment Gary.

For current info on how we're reducing discoloured water in our water system, please visit:

<http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/discolouredFAQ.stm#6>

For current info on how we've prepared to prevent, predict, and deal with frozen pipes, please visit:

<http://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/frozenPipes/default.stm>



2. **Gabriele Martens** says:

November 11, 2014 at 11:42 am

I was hoping the issue of flouride in our water would be addressed.

1) forcing everyone to consume flouride is immoral. Anyone who wishes to consume it may do so, but there must be a choice.

2) forced medication is against human rights.

3) if people are worried about tooth decay, add it to sugary drinks that cause it.

4) Nobel peace prize winners and Harvard professors among others are constantly speaking up against flouride. It's time for us to listen.

I'm looking forward to a day in Winnipeg where we are not forced to ingest toxic industrial waste.



- admin says:

November 14, 2014 at 12:59 pm

Thank you for your comment Gabriele.

Fluoridation is not covered by the Water By-Law revision.

Benefits of fluoridating our drinking water can be found at:

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/fluorideFAQ.stm>



3. Alan Sellen RMT says:

November 13, 2014 at 3:21 pm

Maybe it is time for a class action lawsuit against the City of Winnipeg for poisoning us against our will by dumping this toxic waste into our drinking water. The nuclear industry bought and paid for the study which “proved” that fluoride prevented tooth decay. Then they tricked the public health authorities across North America to BUY their toxic waste to add to the water supply so that they wouldn’t have to pay to process and decontaminate it themselves. There are now dozens of peer reviewed studies showing that not only does fluoride not prevent tooth decay but that it has numerous cytotoxic effects especially on infants and children’s neurological development. I only use distilled water for cooking and drinking, unfortunately, you breathe in fluorine gas when it aerosolizes in the shower. We need better water filtration and UVC (Ultraviolet C wavelength light) disinfection of our water to minimize the amount of chlorine needed for disinfection and total elimination of fluorine.



- admin says:

November 14, 2014 at 1:05 pm

Thank you for your comment Alan.

Fluoridation is not covered by the Water By-Law revision.

Benefits of fluoridating our drinking water can be found at:

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/fluorideFAQ.stm>



4. Zoe Pouliot says:

November 14, 2014 at 10:22 am

The “few” homes this would affect refers to homes in which area? First guess is older homes in areas like Scotia, Weston, Deer Lodge, River Heights, Old St. Vital.....doesn't seem like “a few” and seems like some homeowners will be having to foot the bill twice for maintaining City infrastructure (once through property taxes, and again when the contractor is tearing up the old lines). Stinks to me!



• admin says:

November 18, 2014 at 2:25 pm

Thank you for your comment Zoe.

The number of locations that are currently serviced with a non-conforming private water service pipe is estimated at less than 0.5%, meaning the majority of properties are serviced with a water service pipe that is connected to a fronting water main.



5. C Davis says:

November 14, 2014 at 3:51 pm

Or having raw sewage back up into your basement forcing a home insurance claim and YOU being penalized for it because the company the CITY CONTRACTED to do the work was negligent. Oh – and then having to wait 60 days for a decision, which may still lead to an even longer fight for funds as I may have to PERSONALLY go after the CONTRACTED company?? I pay taxes to the CITY.



• admin says:

November 18, 2014 at 1:51 pm

For information regarding sewer backup, please contact 311.

6.



E. H. says:

November 26, 2014 at 12:29 pm

I am disappointed that the water by-law review doesn't make the occupants of a property responsible for the water bills, rather than the property owner. When the city is regularly billing someone for water use on a property, why are the property owners stuck with any unpaid amounts? The city already has an account and billing history for the occupants. How is this different than if the cable TV companies want to charge the property owner for overdue amounts instead of their actual customer whom they've been billing? I think the city is simply taking the easy way out and charging the property owner. This seems a clear-cut case of a 'user-fee' system that the city is circumventing because simply because they can get away with it.



• admin says:

December 1, 2014 at 10:50 am

Thank you for your comment E.H.

Although tenants may be the consumers of the water, under section 41 of the City of Winnipeg Neighborhood Liveability By-Law, landlords are required to ensure that running water is available to every dwelling.

Landlords may find it beneficial to place the water bill in their name and collect water charges from their tenant as a condition of their lease agreement. This would ensure landlords know on a more timely basis whether the tenant is meeting this obligation of their tenancy.

By adding unpaid water charges to property taxes, the City helps ensure fairness to all rate payers by reducing bad debts.

Landlords can register with the utility, and we will work with them to keep them up to date on the status of the accounts for their rental units.

More information for landlords is available at
<http://www.winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/dept/landlord.stm>



7. Jonathon Hare says:

November 27, 2014 at 12:22 pm

Water bills should follow the occupants like every other bill out there (Hydro, phone, internet, cable, etc). The city takes the easy way out by billing property owners, which should not be allowed. This allows cheating tenants to get away without paying, and causes honest people to foot the bill. Essentially it means good tenants pay the added business costs of bad tenants who do not pay their bills. And adds frustration to everyone.



• admin says:

December 1, 2014 at 12:15 pm

Thank you for your comment Jonathon.

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- madelaine says:

December 3, 2014 at 3:24 pm

These are our comments. If they are only met with a copy and paste answer I don't see the point in providing an answer. Water is the only utility that does this. Just more incompetence and unwillingness to change on the city's part. If hydro, mts and all other individual services like Shaw can control 'bad debts' and the city can't, that should be something to be looked at. Landlords can have a hard enough time collecting rent and late fees, making the landlord do the work for the city that all other utilities do themselves is ridiculous.



8. C Davis says:

December 4, 2014 at 9:25 am

Exactly! We are commenting on CHANGES that should also be made – not what the current by-law states!! We are already aware of the city's backwards way of doing things.



9. Megan Krohn - Manitoba Eco-Network says:

December 5, 2014 at 4:11 pm

I am glad that the city is taking steps to make sure that our drinking water is protected from backflow, and to prevent unmetered and illegal use of water.

Has the city considered creating wording around limiting outdoor water use? In the summers our water consumption increases significantly for use in watering lawns and washing vehicles, etc. Many other municipalities across Canada have designated days and times that water can be used for these purposes. I don't know if this is something that would fall under this by-law, but I think it would help reduce the amount of water needing to be treated at the water and waste water treatment plants, which would potentially save on costs for the city.



- admin says:

December 9, 2014 at 10:42 am

Thank you for your comments and questions Megan.

Part 2 section 17 of the draft by-law pertains to water rationing. This section provides the City flexibility in managing our water supply depending on the situation and associated risks.

Water supply planning studies have revealed that outdoor water use in Winnipeg is very small. On a typical residential bill, outdoor water use amounts to approximately 4-6% of the annual bill. Through our continued water conservation program messaging residents are encouraged to check their lawn by completing the "spring" test and if necessary water their lawn exclusively in the early morning or late evening.



10. Bob says:

December 10, 2014 at 12:47 pm

I looked at Section 41 of the Neighborhood Liveability By-Law and I don't see where it says that landlords are financially responsible and that the city is not responsible for collecting the amounts due from the consumer.

The water department should do like the other utilities and make it an issue between the consumer and utility?



• admin says:

December 15, 2014 at 1:46 pm

Thank you for your comment Bob.

The draft Water By-law continues to follow a long-standing policy recommendation that was adopted by the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works on April 15, 2003.

The adopted recommendation states:

That the Water and Waste Department continue to transfer the unpaid water bills of tenants to owner's property taxes.

More information is available at:

[Standing Policy Committee Meeting Minutes](#)



11. **Bob** says:

[December 10, 2014 at 6:35 pm](#)

I sent a comment/question earlier this afternoon. I later checked this site and saw my comment.

My comment is gone now. Has it been deleted? And if it has been deleted, why has it been deleted?



• **admin** says:

[December 11, 2014 at 12:20 pm](#)

Thank you for your inquiry Bob.

The comments on our website are moderated and currently require approval before posting. You should now see your comment on our website. For further information please see our Terms of Use: <http://winnipeg.ca/interhom/SocialMedia/termsOfUse.stm>



12. **Heather** says:

[January 13, 2015 at 8:58 am](#)

My frequently asked question is: Does an existing fire sprinkler system require a testable double check valve assembly backflow preventer for premise isolation in the new waterworks bylaw and is that clearly stated in the bylaw?



• admin says:

January 15, 2015 at 10:49 am

Thanks for your comment Heather.

All commercial and industrial buildings including apartment buildings will require premise isolation. This includes fire protection systems and potable water systems as stated in the National Plumbing Code and B64.10 CSA standards. The two systems will be independently protected as not to interfere with either system when testing, maintenance or replacement is required on the backflow preventers.



13. Andrea DeRuddere says:

January 15, 2015 at 3:33 pm

I have been a City of Winnipeg resident for 51 years and a St. Norbert, "rur-ban"(rural/urban) homeowner for 29 years. In this time frame we, the City of Winnipeg, St.Norbert South and West residents, with cisterns have seen price increases in our drinking water rise from \$13 per 1,000 gallon (1985) to \$45 per 1,000 gallon/(2013) or portion of. Needless to say we have been water conservationists since time immemorial.

I am concerned that our water service is NOT regulated!? No watch dog has been involved to regulate :1) price increases, 2) service availability and 3) quality control over our drinking water; service provider's trucks and standpipe(s).

There have been instances where water delivered to my home was definitely was NOT City of Wpg. sourced and was pumped out of some rural water standpipe(s) or private well and delivered as City water.

Our land taxes have increased exponentially in the last 29 years without any local improvements to water delivery or land drainage and removal systems. Especially our water delivery services! Myself and our neighbors, on Father LaBonte Rd, Turnbull Drive, Perreault Avenue, Pembina Hwy addresses south of Rue des Trappiste, Waverly Blvd, Brady Road, have expressed concern to City of Winnipeg officials : Mr. John Angus, Mr. Justin Swandel, Mr. Dave Gaudreau, Mr Rod, Bruinooge in the past years without any resolution. If we (the residents) had been allowed to hook up to "RM of Ritchot" based water supply when it was implemented some years ago to their resident rural properties this would not be the issue that it is today as our home property values and safety (drinking water and fire fighting capacities) would not be in question. Our homes are regarded

comparable in real estate prices to homes with unquestionable water supply and sewers either within the City of Winnipeg or to upgraded homes on Red River Drive which are also water serviced by the RM of Ritchot water services, as per Board of Revision, City of Winnipeg.

What I would like to know is : In this current revision of the City's water bylaw's will there finally be a provision that allows us "rur-ban" residents to apply to our neighboring RM's for the supply directly to our homes, without the use of cisterns nor "trickle systems", for resident home water services?

Will there be a provision that the City's Water Waste & Pollution Control Center monitor the quality and safety of OUR drinking water? Will there be a provision that quality control and Health & Food Safety Standards be met and monitored by the vessels and companies supplying our drinking water?

In the very memorable past, there was a local water hauling service who's truck and delivery service was not as clean as our local Septic Service Trucks, and quite frankly, no one could answer as to whom is keeping the service provider to regulated standards. The common answer was " Switch service provider." but the other provider's did NOT want the extra homes to also provide for and only took over, albeit grudgingly,, when that particular provider absolved his business. With his business demise there are currently NO existing businesses that offer cleaning services for cisterns. Many newer resident homeowners are not aware of this yet. It will be left to homeowners to try this without knowing the Food/ Water quality standards nor will they be aware of the very real risks to health and property when attempting this themselves.

Almost as concerning, 30 years ago there were several water service providers to choose from. Now there are two locally. Kenny's Water hauling Service and Lee's Water Hauling Service. They are relatives. They are both aging and there is no competition for service nor replacements for them coming up through the ranks as the Rural Municipalities now are providing home water services to their constituents and essentially the business has died off with the decrease in demand. When these two gentlemen call it a career who will deliver our drinking water?

Headingley is now serviced by their neighboring Rural Municipality. North Main Street (North of the City of Winnipeg Pollution & Control Center) may source it's water delivery from a Rural Municipality also. Which leaves a very small pocket of taxpaying residents in Winnipeg South without water serviced properties.

Potable and un-potable is not even a determining factor nor present in this equation.

Our properties are watershed from the Brady Road Landfill making local underground wells unusable.

Which leaves me to respectfully request," Please do not overlook us residents, yet again, when making revisions to the City of Winnipeg Water By-Law's".

I, on behalf of my neighbors, implore you to either provide water supply, water supply alternatives, as well as water quality regulation and safety measure provisions for our properties at this time as you are reviewing and making additions to our City of Winnipeg Water By-Law.

I Thank you for your time and consideration of these long overdue matters and look forward to actively working towards solutions to these very overlooked situations of grave importance to the

residents of St.Norbert (South and West).

Respectfully,

Andrea DeRuddere



• admin says:

January 26, 2015 at 12:06 pm

Thank you for your comment Andrea.

The City of Winnipeg Water Works By-law only regulates the operation of the City of Winnipeg's waterworks system, and does not govern the process to extend water pipes.

The City's Local Improvement Process addresses the extension of services, such as water mains. More information is on the City of Winnipeg website at winnipeg.ca/publicworks/Services/LocalImprovements.asp

The City operates two standpipe locations that provide access to City water for haulers. More information is on our website at winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/water/standpipeNotice.stm

We regulate the process for accessing the water from our standpipes. However, water haulers are regulated by the Province of Manitoba. If you have concerns related to bulk water hauling, please contact your local Public Health Inspector or visit the Health Protection Unit website at manitoba.ca/healthprotection

One comment on "Water By-law Public Meeting Questions & Responses"



1. Winnie Chan says:

March 30, 2015 at 10:41 pm

It is too much taxes from the city already. Beside that the landlord forces the business people to renovate for \$40,000 and security on the water bills as \$7,000 to \$10,000 and the water quality for the production is poor plus numerous of problems due to the water shut down on the factors like frozen pipes, Ecoli., low flow , PH level up & down, chlorine high and low, brown water which the company had been suffer enough and the business insurance couldn't

protect the business tenants. What a CITY of WPG. that we are suffered for the pressure from these kinds of life being treated like a prisons to warrant issue on the bills come?
