



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Extension of No-Fault Grant Program

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| Date: | June 13, 2007 |
| To: | Public Works and Infrastructure Committee |
| From: | Lou Di Gironimo, General Manager, Toronto Water |
| Wards: | 39 |
| Reference Number: | P:\2007\Cluster B\TW\pw07028 |

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program, also known as the “No-Fault Grant Program”, that was established to provide grants to certain eligible properties that were flooded by the August 19, 2005 storm event, not be extended to properties in Ward 39 that were flooded by a sewer backup in December 2006 or a sewer backup in February 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Toronto Water recommends that:

1. There should be no extension of the 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program to provide grants to homeowners that were flooded as a result of sewer backups in Ward 39 in December 2006 or February 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its meeting on April 5, 2007, requested the General Manager of Toronto Water to report back to the Committee on the extension of the No Fault Grant Program to those directly affected homes referred to in the Member Motion from Councillor Del Grande.

An electronic copy of the Decision Advice can be found under item PW4.18 in the following link:

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On August 19, 2005, a severe rain storm in the City of Toronto caused severe road damage, sewer backups and basement flooding to numerous homes. At its meeting on June 14, 2006, City Council approved the *2005 Flood Damages Grant Program* which provided for a grant of the lesser of \$3,000.00 or the cost of flood damages to certain eligible properties. This program is sometimes referred to as the “No-Fault Grant Program”.

On December 3, 2006, there was a main sewer backup caused by grease build up that affected 17 homes in the Huntingwood and Birchmount neighbourhood. Also, on February 19, 2007, there was another main sewer backup also caused by grease that affected 10 homes on Glendower Circuit.

The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee has requested the General Manager of Toronto Water to report back to the Committee on the extension of the No Fault Grant Program to those directly affected homes referred to above.

COMMENTS

Extension of the 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program

The 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program was set up for the specific purpose of providing grants to those who had experienced flood damages caused by the severe rain storm on August 19, 2005, and followed up by notifying their Councillor or Toronto Water within the following six months. The eligible grants under that program were all paid in 2006 and only a small amount of funds were held over into 2007 for settling a small number of outstanding grants. Therefore, the 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program no longer exists. Also, because the flooding caused by the sewer blockages is not connected in any way with the August 19, 2005 rainstorm, these homes would not have been eligible for grants under the terms of that program.

Remedial measures in the vicinity of the flooded homes

Toronto Water has increased the frequency of sewer inspection and cleaning of the main sewers in the vicinity of the affected homes. The cleaning frequency will be increased from once every five years to three times a year. Back water valves are currently being installed, within the road allowance, on the sanitary sewer connections at the addresses affected by the recent main sewer backups and that experienced problems when the City completed their sewer flushing program. As the frequency of sewer flushing will likely increase within this community, it is prudent for the City to mitigate the potential surcharge of flat-grade sewer service laterals.

Main sewers in the affected and surrounding areas have been cleaned and reviewed by close circuit television. No structural problems were found; however, slight pitting on

the interior of sewers at two locations on Glendower Circuit might allow for future grease build and are being reviewed for re-lining.

Therefore, the City should not extend the 2005 Flood Damages Grant Program to provide grants to homeowners that were flooded as a result of sewer backups in Ward 39 in December 2006 or February 2007 as they are not related to the severe storm event that occurred in August 2005.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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