



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Ilmar Simanovskis, Commissioner, Municipal Operations

Meeting Date: October 6, 2025

Report: Drinking Water Standard of Care Training, Report MOWAT25-012

Subject

A report to seek Council's direction on the Drinking Water Standard of Care Training.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report MOWAT25-012, dated October 6, 2025, of the Commissioner of Municipal Operations as follows:

- a) That the presentation regarding Drinking Water Standard of Care Training be received for information;
- b) That the Councillor handbook be received for information;
- c) That the 2024 Water Quality Report be received and accepted; and
- d) That the 2024 DWQMS Management Review Report be received and accepted.

Executive Summary

- In Ontario, the Safe Drinking Water Act (2002) establishes a legal standard of care for individuals making decisions about municipal water systems, including municipal Councillors

- This standard requires individuals to exercise the care, diligence, and skill a reasonably prudent person would in a similar situation, acting with honesty, integrity, and competence.
- Failure to meet this standard can have legal consequences, such as fines or imprisonment, highlighting the seriousness of ensuring drinking water safety.
- this training is designed to facilitate Councillors understanding of Peterborough's drinking water system and their responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002.

Background

On April 1, 2025, MOWAT25-001 Council passed a by-law to transfer the water system and its assets to the City of Peterborough. With this change the Councillors have become the Owners of the drinking water system and now have a statutory Standard of Care under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 section 19. This training session is designed to inform the Mayor and Councillors with oversight for the drinking water system of their responsibilities outlined in the SDWA. Furthermore, this session will provide context of the drinking water system and describe reports that will be provided to members of council through out the year to assist in decision making with respect the Standard of Care.

The 2024 Water Quality Annual Report provides information regarding the current state of the drinking water for the City of Peterborough. It is generated to provide information to Councillors to assist in diligent oversight of Peterborough's drinking water system, helping to ensure the safety of drinking water. This report will also be available for our customers to view at www.peterborough.ca The information provided is sufficiently detailed for the Councillors to have an understanding on the effectiveness of the drinking water system.

The Drinking Water Quality Management Standard requires a complete review of the Quality Management System (QMS) every 12 months. This review covers all aspect of the QMS including regulatory non-compliance, water quality, operational performance and infrastructure review. The intention of this review is to ensure the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the quality management system. Element 20 requires that the results of the Management Review including identified deficiencies, discussion and action items are reported to the Owner of the drinking water system.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Priority: Pursue service excellence in governance to support long-term fiscal sustainability of the city while respecting the impact of decisions on taxpayers.

Fiscal responsibility for the drinking water system involves managing resources to meet Ontario's water quality standards and infrastructure needs, ensuring the long-term affordability and sustainability of water system while upholding legal and ethical obligations. Together, they mandate a responsible approach to water management that balances public safety with sound financial practices.

Budget and Financial Implications

The resources currently allocated to the maintenance of the Drinking Water System are sufficient and Councils ongoing commitment to providing safe drinking water to the community be continued.

Conclusion

The contents of this training will provide the Council of the Peterborough Drinking Water System with information to make informed choices with respect to the Drinking water System. Furthermore, reports will be provided through the year to maintain their knowledge on the performance and requirements of the drinking water system. They will also have an understanding of communication pathways to obtain the required knowledge on the water system if required.

Attachments

Appendix A: Drinking Water Handbook

Appendix B: 2024 Water Quality Annual Report

Appendix C: 2024 DWQMS Management Review Report Submitted by,

Submitted by,

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Commissioner, Municipal Operations

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