

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Council: November 27, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....

Feasibility of Accelerated Lead Water Service Line Replacement Options (City Wide)

WHEREAS, Health Canada in March 2019 revised its guidelines for the safe level of lead content in drinking water from 10 microgrammes per litre, to 5 microgrammes per litre;

WHEREAS, Health Canada has warned that lead is linked to numerous health problems, including high blood pressure and kidney problems in adults, as well as complications in pregnancy and behavioural disorders or a loss of IQ in children;

WHEREAS, in the City of Hamilton, homes built before 1955 have the greatest potential of having a lead water pipe connecting their home to the municipal water supply, and; Whereas, within the City it is estimated there remains active approximately 20,000 lead private water services that will at current replacement rates take 25 years to fully replace;

WHEREAS, the City established in 2007 one of the first municipal loan programs for the replacement of lead water services that has supported more than 20% of all lead service replacements with over 2,000 loans issued providing over \$3 million in financial assistance over the past 12 years;

WHEREAS, the City as of November 2018, has implemented the proactive use of orthophosphate to create a protective barrier inside pipes to reduce the release of metals, such as lead and copper from household plumbing at a capital construction cost of approximately \$6 million with annual operating costs of over \$500,000;

WHEREAS, the City's objective is to increase awareness of the presence of private lead water services, in May 2019, the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, submitted a request to the Province, seeking that legislative and regulatory enactments be made as part of implementation of the Home Inspection Act, 2017, to prescribe the requirement of testing water services to identify the presence of lead water service lines;

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WHEREAS, many property owners have chosen not to replace the private lead water services on their own property even where the City has replaced the public portion of the lead water service; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Montreal has recently announced its Action Plan 2019 to proactively address the presence of lead in water including such measures to accelerate public lead water service line replacements and to impose the obligation to replace the private portion of lead water service lines;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff bring forward a feasibility report for further potential proactive measures for City Council's consideration including:
 - (i) Implementation of a by-law to impose the obligation to replace the private portion of lead water service lines where the public portion of a lead water service line replacement has occurred or is to be replaced; and,
 - (ii) Options to accelerate the replacement of the public portion of all known lead services inclusive of a financing strategy for the City, with costs estimated to exceed \$100 million.