



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-398

From: Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer

Date: April 20, 2023

**Subject: Dawson Creek Fringe Area Sewer Systems User Fees Bylaw No. 2519**

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## **RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Unweighted – LGA s.207 (5)]**

That the Regional Board give Dawson Creek Fringe Area Sewer Systems User Fees Bylaw No. 2519, 2023, to specify user fees for the Chilton, Friesen, and Harper-Imperial Sewer Systems, all of which connect to the City of Dawson Creek sewer collection system for treatment, first three readings.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Unweighted – 2/3 Majority]**

That the Regional Board adopt Dawson Creek Fringe Area Sewer Systems User Fees Bylaw No. 2519, 2023.

## **RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Weighted]**

That the Regional Board amend the Chilton, Friesen, Harper Sewer Connection agreement between the Regional Board and the City of Dawson Creek to replace the reference to the City of Dawson Creek Sewer Rates and Regulations Bylaw with a reference to the City of Dawson Creek Fees and Charges Bylaw 3392, 2007, as may be amended or replaced from time to time; further, that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the Peace River Regional District.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In Area D there are three small sewer collection systems operated by the Peace River Regional District which connect to the City of Dawson Creek’s collection system for treatment and discharge. These three systems are Chilton, Friesen, and Harper Imperial subdivisions, on the outskirts of the City of Dawson Creek. The Peace River Regional District recently added the ability to charge user fees in Chilton subdivision and amalgamated into one bylaw the fees for all three systems which are reliant on City of Dawson Creek’s infrastructure for final disposition. That bylaw specified that the charges for Area D PRRD residents are the charges specified in the City of Dawson Creek Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3392, 2007, as may be amended, as the agreement between the parties recognizes that the PRRD will pay the rate as determined by the City, for the collection and treatment of sewage from rural residents. This version of the PRRD bylaw clearly states the rates that Area D residents will be charged, rather than incorporating the rates by reference only to the City of Dawson Creek bylaw.

Language that was previously included to provide an explanation of the method by which the City of Dawson Creek calculates the rate applicable to rural properties connected to the City of Dawson Creek infrastructure has been removed from the PRRD bylaw to avoid any potential for conflict between the City of Dawson Creek bylaw, and the PRRD Bylaw.

The change to the Chilton Friesen Harper Sewer Connection Agreement has been discussed with City of Dawson Creek staff. This agreement was approved in 2016; in 2021, the City removed the sewer fees from the sewer regulations bylaw and added them to their user fees and charges bylaw (all City fees are consolidated into this single bylaw); the change does not alter the intent of the agreement, which is in effect until 2035.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Not Applicable to Strategic Plan

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

User fees for properties in the Dawson Creek Fringe areas with sewer collection systems will total \$524 in 2023.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

Bylaw 2500, 2023, was sent to all properties in the three sewer service areas when it was adopted in January. Because the rate charged by the City to the PRRD, and passed on the properties receiving the serve has not changed, (the next increase will be January 2024) there is no need to resend the bylaw to residents.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

This bylaw will need to be amended to align with the City of Dawson Creek charges in December 2024 or January 2025, when the City of Dawson Creek conducts its scheduled five year review and updates their bylaw. The rates they set will be incorporated into the PRRD bylaw.

## Attachments:

1. Dawson Creek Fringe Area Sewer Systems User Fee Bylaw No. 2519, 2023
2. Contract Amendment April 20, 2023 – City DC/PRRD Sewer Connection (Chilton/Friesen/Harper Imperial) Agreement
3. 2016 Sewer Connection Agreement – City DC/PRRD Sewer Connection (Chilton/Friesen/Harper Imperial) Agreement

## External Links:

1. [Report ENV-BRD-118, Sewer User Rate Bylaw No. 2500, 2023 \(January 12, 2012 Board meeting, Item 9.2\)](#)