Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw - Summary of Changes
From Sanitary Sewer Bylaw No. 7897, 2006 to Proposed Draft Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw

Background

A key recommendation of the 2015 City of Prince George Sanitary Sewer Services Master Plan was the establishment of a source control program as an economical and sustainable means of pollutant control, to reduce sanitary sewer infrastructure maintenance and wastewater treatment costs. This program was initiated in late 2015 and by early 2016, had established an eight person working group comprised of City staff from Utilities, Engineering, Planning & Development and Bylaw to:

- review the current Sanitary Sewer Bylaw;
- research and set objectives for an updated bylaw based on current knowledge; and
- draft an updated bylaw.

Following the principles of the 2009 Model Sewer Use Bylaw produced by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME), and with the professional assistance of consultants with wastewater source control, regulatory and legal expertise, the bylaw working group has drafted an updated bylaw that applies to all users of the City of Prince George Sanitary Sewer System. The proposed draft bylaw is intended to be fair, consistent and effective; safeguarding City infrastructure and treatment processes, public and worker health and safety, property and the environment, now and into the future.

Major Changes in the Proposed Draft Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw

Focus: The "Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw" name better expresses the emphasis on controlling the substances entering the sanitary sewer system.

Format: The proposed draft bylaw has a table of contents, section headings and schedules for greater ease in finding information.

Language: Wherever possible, plain language has been used in the bylaw text and definitions.

Definitions: Words and terms have been updated and new definitions added to ensure clarity in the bylaw.

General Provisions: Clauses that apply in several sections of the bylaw have been grouped to make them easier to find and reduce duplication.

Authority: The "Authorized Person" has been changed from the Director of Development Services to the Public Works Director of the City of Prince George. The authority to act on provisions of the bylaw is clearly laid out.

Responsibility for Use, Maintenance and Repair: The proposed draft bylaw has improved clarity on the responsibilities of the property owner and the City with respect to sanitary sewer use, maintenance and repair.

Discharge Prohibitions and Restrictions: Wastewater discharge criteria in the proposed draft bylaw are consistent with recent legislation and guidelines. The list of waste that is prohibited to discharge, in any amount, has been clarified, updated and moved to form Schedule "A" of the proposed draft bylaw. The list of wastes that may be discharged, under strict limits, has been updated, expanded by an additional 16 parameters and forms Schedule "B". Restricted waste limits are presented in three tables: conventional contaminants, organic contaminants and inorganic contaminants. The list has been further simplified by citing a single limit for each substance, regardless of whether the sample was collected by grab or composite method.

Authorizations are proposed in the updated bylaw to provide controls for wastewater discharges to sani-dumps. Septage waste haulers will require an updated authorization to dispose of septage at a City facility. Allowable septage criteria is defined, and conditions for equipment, manifests, sampling and reporting are proposed, to improve controls on discharges to the City's septage disposal facility.

Enhancements of Source Controls for Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Discharges: Provisions for waste discharge permits are retained and updated. The proposed draft bylaw also provides additional tools to enhance source controls for industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) discharges through Authorizations, Codes of Practice, and related requirements for treatment works, monitoring, sampling and analysis of wastewater discharges, record-keeping and reporting.

Codes of Practice: Codes of Practice set minimum standards for wastewater pre-treatment, inspection, maintenance and record-keeping that applies to, and is tailored for, all operations within the specified commercial sector. Three Codes of Practice have been developed specifically for Prince George:

Code of Practice	Substances of Concern	Reduce Impacts Related To:
Food Service Operations Approx. 350 operations	• Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) • Suspended Solids	• Blockages & sewer back-ups • Public & worker health & safety • Increased infrastructure maintenance • Increased wastewater treatment costs
Mechanical Repair Operations Approx. 300 operations	• Oil & Grease • Metals • Suspended Solids • Chlorinated Solvents	• Blockages & sewer back-ups • Damage to sewer infrastructure • Dangerous sewer conditions • Discharge of substances that can't be treated to local waterbodies
Vehicle Wash Operations Approx. 200 operations	• Oil & Grease • Metals • Suspended Solids • pH (high levels of acidity and alkalinity)	• Contaminant levels in sludge can accumulate to hazardous levels • Dangerous sewer conditions • Blockages & back-ups • Damage to sewer infrastructure

These Codes of Practice are proposed to be implemented over a three year period.

Unauthorized Discharges and Spill Response: The proposed draft bylaw has expanded requirements for persons responsible for unauthorized discharges to manage, report and prevent a recurrence.

Addressing Non-Compliance: With clearly defined responsibilities, a commitment to providing education as a first step, and with the intensifying tools to implement source controls as shown below, compliance with the bylaw is achievable:

Codes of Practice ⟩ Authorization ⟩ Waste Discharge Permit

Where compliance is not achieved through these means, the proposed draft Sanitary Sewer Use Bylaw clearly outlines the City's authority to enforce and allows for a stepped approach as shown below:

Written Warning ⟩ Written Order ⟩ Bylaw Notice of Enforcement (Fine) ⟩ Municipal Ticketing (Fine) ⟩ Charges

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