



Report Number: PFC2019-xxxx

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2019 December 03

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Addressing Lead Pipes in Calgary

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillors Druh Farrell and Jeromy Farkas

WHEREAS clean and safe drinking water is one of the most critical responsibilities of The City of Calgary;

AND WHEREAS a recent academic and media report on lead contamination in drinking water across 14 Canadian cities started a national conversation on the serious health concerns associated with lead pipes;

AND WHEREAS Calgary has approximately 550 properties connected to City water services by lead pipes on City property, though this number could be higher due to incomplete records on pipe materials;

AND WHEREAS The City does not maintain records of materials used for pipes on private property;

AND WHEREAS The City conducted hundreds of water tests on Calgary properties known to be connected by lead pipes over recent years, with 46 properties breaching federal guidelines for lead exposure in 2019;

AND WHEREAS, while it is rare to find lead in Calgary water, the recent report indicated that up to 40 per cent of tested properties breached federal guidelines in previous years, sometimes by up to four times;

AND WHEREAS, despite federal guidelines, there is no known safe threshold for exposure to lead;

AND WHEREAS it was previously estimated that replacing public lead pipes would cost The City \$11 million;

AND WHEREAS, while using a water filter is the most immediate way to address contamination, the most effective permanent approach is to remove public and private pipes, since only replacing public pipes has the potential to increase contamination in drinking water;

AND WHEREAS Montreal will replace affected pipes on public and private property, billing costs back to residents over 15 years;

AND WHEREAS Halifax will replace affected pipes on public and private property, to the cost of the utility;

AND WHEREAS, while the City of Calgary has a program to monitor and address lead pipes, the recent report highlights the need for a more aggressive approach to lead pipe replacement to safeguard public health;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council directs City Administration to prepare a report on accelerated removal of lead water pipes, from both public and private properties, returning to Council through the Standing Policy Community on Utilities and Corporate Services no later than Q1 2020, considering:

- Estimated costs and funding options
- Opportunities for collaboration and cost sharing with private property owners and the Government of Alberta
- Timelines