

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

By-Law 2024-xxx

A By-law to Provide 2024 Water Rate Relief To Certain City of Kawartha Lakes Property Owners Who Are Low Income Elderly Persons, Low Income Persons Between The Ages Of 55 And 64, Low Income Disabled Persons Or Ontario Disability Support Program Recipients

Recitals

1. Section 10 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, provides a municipality may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public.
2. Section 391 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, provides that the council of a local municipality may impose fees and charges that include administration charges

Accordingly, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes enacts this By-law 2024-xxx.

Section 1.00: Definitions and Interpretation

1.01 **Definitions:** In this by-law,

“City”, “City of Kawartha Lakes” or “Kawartha Lakes” means The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes and includes its entire geographic area;

"City Clerk" means the person appointed by Council to carry out the duties of the clerk described in section 228 of the Municipal Act, 2001;

“Council” or “City Council” means the municipal council for the City;

“Dependant” means a child if:

- i. he/she is under 18;
- ii. he/she resides in the same home with his/her parent(s);
- iii. the parent(s) is an ODSP applicant/recipient or his/her spouse; and

The applicant/recipient receives the Canada Child Tax Benefit on behalf of the child or if that does not apply, has been determined to be the child's primary caregiver.

In addition, if the child is of school age, the child must be attending school. If the child is over 16 years of age, the child must be making satisfactory progress in school. The child is exempt from the school requirement, if the child is unable to attend school due to a physical or mental disability, or for reasons outside his/her control.

“Eligible person” means a “low-income senior” or a “low-income person with disabilities” or the spouse of such eligible person whose name also appears as a registered owner of the property who meets the qualifications set out in this By-law.

“Eligible property” means

- i. a property classified as residential real property on the annual assessment roll for the City of Kawartha Lakes, or
- ii. a portion of real properties classified as residential real property that is utilized as a principle residence and must be solely owned (with their spouse, if applicable) and occupied by the eligible person(s).

“Household income” means the combined gross income of all eligible persons occupying the eligible property in respect of which the application for a water bill rebate is made.

“Low-income person with disabilities” means:

- i. Who has owned and occupied, as the principal residence, the eligible property for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of application for the rebate;
- ii. Who is in receipt of one or more of the following: benefits paid under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act, 1997; or a disability amount paid under the Family Benefits Act (Ontario); or a Canada Pension Plan Disabilities Pension.

“Low-income Senior” means:

- i. Who has owned and occupied, as the principal residence, the eligible property for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of application for the rebate;
- ii. a person who attained the age of 65 years as of December 31st of the previous year and is in receipt of benefits paid under the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) program, as established under The Old Age Security Act (Canada);
- iii. a person between the ages of 55 to 64 years of age as of December 31st of the previous year whose combined taxable income, with their spouse (if applicable), as reported on Line 260 or Line 26000 of the 2023 Income Tax Notice of Assessment, is less than \$30,000.

“Manager of Revenue and Taxation” means the person who holds that position and his or her delegate(s) or, in the event of organizational changes, another person designated by Council.

“Owner” means a person assessed as the owner of the eligible property, and includes the owner within the meaning of the Condominium Act.

“Treasurer” means the Director of Finance and Treasurer for the City of Kawartha Lakes or their designate.

1.02 **Interpretation Rules:**

- i. The Schedules attached to this by-law form part of the by-law, and are enforceable as such.
- ii. The words “include” and “including” are not to be read as limiting the meaning of a word or term to the phrases or descriptions that follow.

1.03 **Statutes:** References to laws in this by-law are meant to refer to the statutes, as amended from time to time, that are applicable within the Province of Ontario.

1.04 **Severability:** If a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction declares any portion of this by-law to be illegal or unenforceable, that portion of this by-law shall be considered to be severed from the balance of the by-law, which shall continue to operate in full force and effect.

Section 2.00: Water bill rebate for eligible low income disabled persons and low income seniors

2.01 The City shall, where an eligible person has made a successful application in relation to an eligible property under this portion of this By-law relating to the water bill rebate, provide a rebate in accordance with the provisions set out in Sections 2 to 5 of this By-law, inclusive.

2.02 The water bill rebate shall be set at a rate representing a twenty-percent reduction from the water rate, as set out in the City of Kawartha Lakes By-law 2021-162, A By-law to Repeal and Replace By-law 2018-039, Being a By-law to Regulate Water and Wastewater Services in the City of Kawartha Lakes, or at such other rate as determined by City Council from time to time.

Section 3.00: Eligibility to receive a water bill rebate.

3.01 A person is eligible to receive a water bill rebate if:

- i. The person is an eligible low-income disabled person or low-income senior;
- ii. The person occupies the eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, as his or her personal principal residence;
- iii. The person has made an application for the water bill rebate program in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.00 of this By-law.
- iv. The application for a water bill rebate is in respect of only the water bill for the year in which the application is made;

3.02 The person agrees to notify the Treasurer of any change in circumstances which would alter his or her status as an eligible person, or the amount of the water bill rebate to which they are entitled;

3.03 The person is an owner who has occupied the eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of application for the rebate;

- 3.04 Where title to the eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, is held by an eligible person and his or her spouse or same sex spouse and no other owner, one of the joint owners must qualify as an eligible person, but where title to the eligible property is held jointly by an eligible person and a person or persons who are not his or her spouse or same sex spouse, all of the joint owners must qualify as an eligible person;
- 3.05 Payment to the City for all taxes payable for all previous years and water and wastewater bill charges payable for the current year related to the eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, have been made in full.
- 3.06 The water consumption for the eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, must be
- i. 175 cubic metres or less of water per calendar year for a qualifying low income Senior; or
 - ii. 175 cubic metres or less for a low-income disabled person with up to 2 permanent residents; or
 - iii. 300 cubic metres or less for a low-income disabled person with more than 2 permanent residents residing at the property and residents of the property who are not registered owners of the property are dependants of the property owner(s).
- 3.07 The eligible property, which is the subject of the rebate application, must be metered and the applicant must provide to the City an actual meter reading in or around December 31 or the last quarter of the year, and/or provide access to City staff to obtain an actual reading; or
- 3.08 If the eligible property is one that is on the flat-rate billing system, the applicant must have made a request to the City of Kawartha Lakes, Utility Billing Section for the installation of a water meter and made a reasonable effort to provide the City access to install the new meter, in which case, the water bill rebate shall be calculated to a maximum rebate that an eligible metered customer would be entitled to receive for a consumption of 175 cubic metres, for accounts paid on or before the due date for the year in which the rebate is being sought.

Section 4.00: Administration and Effective Date

- 4.01 Applications for the water bill rebate must be in writing on a form prepared by the City for this purpose and must be submitted to the City of Kawartha Lakes on or before September 30 of the year for which the water bill rebate is sought.
- 4.02 An application must include documentation in support thereof in a form satisfactory to the Manager of Revenue and Taxation, to establish that the applicant or, in the case of property held jointly in accordance with Section 3.04, the applicant's spouse, is an eligible person, that the eligible property with respect to which the application is made is eligible for such water bill rebate and to establish the amount of water bill rebate to which the eligible person is entitled.

Section 5.00: Credit to water bill account

The following provisions shall apply to the water bill rebate program:

- 5.01 The rebate for eligible low-income seniors and low-income disabled persons shall be in the form of a credit applied to the eligible person's water bill for the eligible property which is the subject of the rebate application;
- 5.02 If all eligibility requirements are met, the credit shall be applied to the eligible person's first water bill of the following year;
- 5.03 If an eligible person sells their eligible property during the year, and provided that a final read was forwarded to the City prior to the change in ownership, a rebate will be credited to the final bill for the portion of the year the eligible property was owned by the eligible person and shall be issued based on the consumption used up to the change of ownership date calculated on a pro-rated basis; and
- 5.04 In any year, or eligible portion thereof, the water bill rebate or credit rate shall be calculated by multiplying the water per cubic metre rate by 20%, and such rates being based on 'paid on or before the due date', applicable for the year or portion thereof in which the rebate is being applied for.

Section 6.00: Administration and Effective Date

- 6.01 **Administration of the By-law:** The Manager of Revenue and Taxation is responsible for the administration of this by-law.
- 6.02 **Effective Date:** This By-law shall come into force on the date it is finally passed.

By-law read a first, second and third time, and finally passed, this day of , 2024.

Doug Elmslie, Mayor

Cathie Ritchie, City Clerk