



## Council Report

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**Report Number:** CORP2025-019  
**Meeting Date:** June 24, 2025  
**Title:** **Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance**  
**Description:** March 2025 Ice Storm  
**Author and Title:** Carolyn Daynes, Treasurer

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### **Recommendation(s):**

**That** Report CORP2025-019, **Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance**, be received;

**That** the City of Kawartha Lakes hereby requests the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to activate the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA) program to recognize and support the associated incremental and unbudgeted operating and capital costs experienced by the City of Kawartha Lakes resulting from the Ice Storm on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025;

**That** the Treasurer be given delegated authority to verify and attest to the accuracy of the claim submitted, and

**That** Staff be directed to submit all required documentation to MMAH by the July 28, 2025 deadline.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Background:**

This report addresses the Ice Storm that occurred on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the expenses incurred to 1) address emergency response efforts during the storm and 2) the ongoing clean-up and emergency recovery.

**Rationale:**

The Province established the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance (MDRA) Program to mitigate expenses incurred by Ontario municipalities due to severe weather. This program has a list of eligible and ineligible expenses. Eligible expenses are capital costs to repair public infrastructure or property and operating costs that go above regular budgets and are needed to protect public health, safety or access to essential services.

Ineligible expenses include costs that are covered by municipal insurance and costs that would have been incurred even if the storm had not occurred.

To be eligible for a program the following requirements must be met:

- Experienced a sudden, unexpected and extraordinary natural disaster
- Have costs over and above regular budgets that can be clearly linked to the disaster
- Passed a resolution of Council
- Submitted an initial MDRA claim for expenses, including an estimate of further expenses to be incurred.

The City has until July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to submit these claims and provide an initial estimate of total expenses. The City has obtained a letter confirming that insurance will not cover any of the City Ice Storm expenses. Storm related costs have been tracked and included in a separate Business Unit. Table 1 below reflects the expenses incurred to June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Table 1 – Total Ice Storm Costs to June 12, 2025**

<b>Type of Cost</b>	<b>Costs to June 12, 2025</b>
Overtime Costs	\$78,025
Advertising	\$7,912
Material Supplies	\$1,019,716
Equipment Expenses	\$468,706
Contracted Services	\$4,698,090
<b>Total Costs to June 12, 2025</b>	<b>6,331,352</b>

Staff is forecasting an additional \$10 to \$15 Million in contracted expenditures to complete the City-wide debris cleanup. The actual costs and forecast will be submitted to the Ministry in July, once more refined final estimates of costs are known.

The MDRA Program cost sharing framework includes that costs:

- up to 3% of the municipal's own purpose taxation levy (approx. \$4.3M) are 75% covered by the Province and 25% by the Municipality.
- Eligible expenses incurred beyond the 3% of the municipalities own purpose taxation levy the Province will reimburse at 95% of costs and the municipality would be responsible for the remaining 5%.

The City has indication that the Province may waive the 3% limitation due to the severity of the storm and the damage to roadways and municipal property. If this savings of the limit occurs, then all eligible costs will be funded at the 95% Provincial money and 5% City funding.

Based on the current projection if all costs were considered eligible under MDRA Program, the Province would potentially fund approximately \$19.3M and the City would have to fund approximately \$1M.

### **Other Alternatives Considered:**

The City will continue to advance storm clean-up, as planned, and City-wide. Should the Province not fully fund recovery expenses incurred, staff would provide options to Council through the 2026 budget process to fund this shortfall.

### **Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

For reference the strategic priorities with which this report addresses within the 2020-2023 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan are Healthy Environment and an Exceptional Quality of Life. The Ice Storm damage was extensive throughout the City and municipal efforts to assist during the storm and with the clean up were essential to maintain public safety.

### **Financial/Operation Impacts:**

The current recorded expense to date is at \$6.3 Million with a further forecasted \$10 to \$15 Million. The City will submit the claim and await funding confirmation from the Province.

**Consultations:**

Chief Administrative Officer  
Director, Corporate Services  
Director of Engineering  
Director of Community Services  
Supervisor – Procurement  
Finance Co-ordinator  
Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Attachments:**

n/a

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**Department Head: Sara Beukeboom**

**Department File: Corporate Services**