

## STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

**Report Prepared By:** Geoff Goodall, Director of Infrastructure Services and  
Erin Anderson, Director of Financial Services

**Meeting Date:** February 4, 2020

**File No:**

**RE:** **WATER CONSERVATION PLAN 2020**

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council set a new single family residential water consumption target for the Town of Ladysmith of 25 per cent lower than the BC residential average single family consumption rate.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

An updated Water Conservation Plan must be included in the water supply projects grant application that the Town will be submitting by the February 26, 2020 deadline. The last conservation plan, completed in 2015, set a target of 260 litres of water consumption per person per day. Town data show that we have actually achieved this target.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

CS 2015- 023	01/19/2015	<p>That Council adopt the following recommendations and include them in an updated Conservation Plan for 2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set a new residential water consumption target of 20 per cent lower than the current published Canadian average residential consumption rate;</li> <li>2. Direct staff to investigate the potential to expand the current single family residential block water rate structure to other users, such as commercial and industrial users, and report back to Council on possible changes to the rate structure;</li> <li>3. Direct staff to investigate further reductions of water use at municipal facilities, including parks irrigation, as well as any unaccounted for water use (water leaks);</li> <li>4. Direct staff to investigate new potential rebates and public education, and other water reduction programs to achieve the target water reductions noted above.</li> </ol>
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### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

The Town of Ladysmith has made water supply a priority in the face of a growing population and changing weather patterns brought on by climate change. Included in the Financial Plan and Strategic Plan are many investment commitments to water assets, infrastructure and water

supply over the next few years.

Ensuring that the end users of the water are using it in a sustainable manner is important to maintaining water supply. In addition, responsible consumption factors into the total cost of producing water.

Under the current (2015) water conservation plan, the Town has a per capita water target of 260 litres per person per day. This 260 litres/person/day originated in 2015 as a “meet or beat” target of 20 per cent less than the Canadian average of 350 litres/person/day.

In 2019, when Ladysmith watering restrictions were put in place earlier than in previous years, the amount of water used by our residential water billing categories was 212 litres/person/day. This figure was arrived at by dividing total residential water billing by the population figures for Ladysmith provided by BC Stats. See table 1 – annual residential water consumption.

Table 1 – Annual Residential Water Consumption

Year	Residential Consumption (m <sup>3</sup> )	Population (BC Stats)	Ladysmith Litres/day/person
2019	697,496	9,031	212
2018	756,708	8,901	232
2017	711,711	8,922	219

The latest Statistics Canada data for average daily residential use in litres per capita for British Columbia shows the following:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2017</u>
British Columbia	312	299	301	291
25% Reduction Target	234	224	226	218

Source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/190611/cg-b002-eng.htm>

In order to support a target reduction in residential water use per single family household at 25 per cent less than the provincial average, the Town has a number of initiatives already underway:

- All new Town facilities are equipped with low-flush toilets and other Town facilities are retrofitted with low-flush toilets as necessary
- The low flush toilet rebate program has been updated to tie the rebate to the efficiency of the toilet (the greater the efficiency – the greater the rebate).

In addition, the Town is implementing the following new initiatives:

- Continuing with the meter replacement program (asset management) to ensure water meters are accurately reading consumption.

- Expanding the number of drought tolerant species planted by the Town in order to reduce irrigation needs
- Scheduling the pool shutdown (draining and refilling) during winter months when there is an abundance of water supply (this previously took place in late August/early September)
- Working with the School District to reduce water consumption on school playing fields during summer months
- Hiring summer students to perform a “water ambassador” role to educate property owners on water reduction

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Council can choose to set a different target amount; however, it must set a water use reduction target in order to apply for the grant funding of \$23.3 million for water supply projects.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

**CITIZEN/PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS:**

The Town will implement an education and engagement plan.

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

**ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABILITY VISIONING REPORT:**

- |                                                                 |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete Community Land Use | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Impact Transportation         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green Buildings             | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Use Landscapes              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Innovative Infrastructure   | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Food Systems                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Community                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local, Diverse Economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable                         |                                                            |

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

- |                                                    |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> Economy        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community      | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront                |                                         |

***I approve the report and recommendation(s).***

**Guillermo Ferrero, Chief Administrative Officer**