

SEWER MAINTENANCE POLICY

Updated: September 8, 2026
Resolution No: 214/26

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly establish responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of sanitary sewer service laterals serving properties within the Town of Elrose, and to establish a consistent procedure when work requires excavation within Town property or a municipal right-of-way.

Legislative Authority

This policy is established in reference to the Municipalities Act Sections 25(2) which permits Council, as a term of supplying a public utility service, to make a property owner responsible for the costs of constructing, maintaining, repairing and replacing the portion of a service connection located between a public utility main and the boundary of the street, road or easement, and section 28(1), respecting responsibility for a service connection located on the owner's parcel.

Responsibility of the Sewer Service Lateral

The sewer service lateral is the responsibility of the property owner from the building or premises to the point where the service lateral connects to the Town sanitary sewer main.

The property owner's responsibility includes the portion of the sewer service lateral located on private property and the portion located under a boulevard, sidewalk, street, road or other municipal right of way.

The property owner is responsible for the costs associated in investigating, cleaning, maintaining, repairing and otherwise replacing the sewer service lateral, including excavation and other underground work required to access the lateral unless otherwise deemed by Council.

The Town is responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the Town owned sanitary sewer main and other Town owned infrastructure.

Blockages and Sewer Problems

Where a blockage, failure or other problem occurs within a sewer service lateral, including problems caused by tree roots, grease, wipes, foreign objects, deterioration, collapse, or other conditions affecting the sewer lateral, the investigation and corrective work are the responsibility of the property owner, subject to any specific exception approved by Council.

Where investigation determines that the problem is located within the Town owned sanitary sewer main or other Town owned infrastructure, the Town is responsible for the applicable municipal repair.

Excavation and Authorization

Before excavation begins within a Town street, sidewalk, boulevard or municipal right of way, the property owner or the owner's contractor must contact the Town and receive authorization to proceed.

The property owner is responsible for arranging and paying for the excavation required to access, repair or replace the sewer service lateral. The property owner is also responsible for backfilling and properly compacting the excavation to a standard acceptable to the Town.

Inspection Before Backfilling

Any repaired or replaced sewer service lateral within a municipal right of way must be inspected by the Public Works Foreman or designate before the service connection is covered or backfilled.

The property owner or contractor must provide the Town with reasonable notice when the work is ready for inspection.

If the sewer service connection is covered before the required inspection has been completed, the Town may require the connection to be exposed for inspection. Any additional costs for exposing the connection is the responsibility of the property owner.

In an emergency or where the Public Works Foreman or designate is unavailable, alternate arrangements may be authorized by the Town.

Restoration of Town Infrastructure

Following satisfactory inspection and proper backfilling and compaction, the Town of Elrose will be responsible for arranging and paying for the final restoration of the Town owned surface infrastructure disturbed as a direct result of the sewer service lateral work.

The Town will determine the method timing and standard of final restoration.

The Town's responsibility for surface restoration does not include the cost of repairing or replacing the property owner's sewer service lateral, excavation required to access the lateral, backfill or compaction.

Council Discretion

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, Council may, by resolution, determine a different allocation of responsibility or costs where Council considers it appropriate because of unusual circumstances, the condition of the municipal infrastructure, prior municipal work, or other factors relevant to the particular situation.

Administration & Public Works Foreman

The Administrator and Public Works Foreman are authorized to administer this policy in accordance with approved budgets, bylaws and Council resolutions. Circumstances not clearly addressed by this policy may be referred to Council for direction.

Proposed Responsibility Summary

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Sewer lateral – building to sewer main	Property Owner
Excavation to access lateral	Property Owner
Repair / replacement of lateral	Property Owner
Backfill and Compaction	Property Owner
Inspection before covering	Town – Public works foreman or designate
Final road restoration	Town of Elrose
Final municipal sidewalk restoration	Town of Elrose
Final curb/gutter restoration	Town of Elrose
Sanitary sewer main	Town of Elrose