

Subject: Kanata North Nuisance Mosquito Control Program

File Number: ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0163

Report to Finance and Corporate Services Committee on 5 December 2023

and Council 6 December 2023

Submitted on 1 December 2023 by Cathy Curry, Councillor, Ward 4 – Kanata North

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Ward: Ward 4 – Kanata North

Objet : Programme de lutte contre les moustiques nuisibles de Kanata-Nord et prélèvement propre au secteur

Dossier : ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0163

Rapport au Comité des finances et des services organisationnels

le 5 décembre 2023

et au Conseil le 6 décembre 2023

Soumis le premier décembre 2023 par Cathy Curry, Conseillère, Quartier 4 - Kanata Nord

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REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the Finance and Corporate Services Committee recommend that Council approve a community-wide vote to determine support for continuation of the Kanata North Nuisance Mosquito Control Program and area-specific levy, as detailed in this report.**
- 2. That the Finance and Corporate Services Committee direct that the report be submitted to Council for consideration at its meeting of December 6, 2023.**

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORTS

- 1. Que le Comité des finances et des services organisationnels recommande au Conseil d'approuver la tenue d'un vote, à l'échelle de la collectivité, pour déterminer si les résidents sont favorables ou non à la poursuite du Programme de lutte contre les moustiques nuisibles de Kanata-Nord et du prélèvement propre au secteur, comme l'expose en détail le présent rapport.**
- 2. Que le Comité des finances et des services organisationnels demande que le rapport soit examiné par le Conseil lors de sa réunion prévue le 6 décembre 2023.**

BACKGROUND

On 1 October 2019, Finance and Economic Development Committee (now Finance and Corporate Services Committee) approved report [ACS2019-OCC-GEN-0008](#) recommending that Council approve a community-wide vote in Kanata North to determine support for the continuation of the Kanata North Nuisance Mosquito Control Program and its area-specific levy. Council approved the report on 9 October 2019. On 4 February 2020, Finance and Economic Development Committee approved report [ACS2020-OCC-GEN-0007](#) recommending that Council receive the results of the community-wide vote and its related area-specific levy, and delegate authority to Staff for program implementation. Council approved this report on 12 February 2020.

The quality of life for residents of Kanata North has been impacted by significant populations of “nuisance” mosquitoes. Ward 4 - Kanata North is surrounded by major wetlands that contain great biodiversity. Among this diversity, more than 44 mosquito species are well established in the catchment basin, and some of those are exotic and invasive. The high-water table and the flat topography create a haven for mosquito reproduction and favour the creation of large mosquito development sites, many of which remain flooded throughout the season. For this reason and following public consultation, the City of Ottawa secured the services of GDG Canada to control spring and summer mosquito larvae by applying a biological larvicide in Kanata North.

DISCUSSION

Ward 4 - Kanata North residents have been served by the Nuisance Mosquito Control Program since 2016, with back-to-back contracts signed with GDG Canada from 2016-2019 and 2020-2023. The program has successfully reduced the nuisance mosquito population in Kanata North allowing residents to enjoy the outdoors in the spring and summer seasons.

The Nuisance Mosquito Program Overview

The previous contract having expired, the Ward 4 – Kanata North office is seeking to continue the program through 2027. In September 2023, the Ward 4 – Kanata North office worked with City Staff to issue a Request for Proposals in order to identify a contractor to implement and operate the program. GDG Canada has once more been identified as the successful proponent to implement the program.

The Program will be renewed should residents vote in favour of supporting the funding of the Nuisance Mosquito Control Program and City Council pass the funding bylaw required to pay for the project.

As was the case in both previous contracts, the program funding will come from Ward 4 residents via an area-specific levy on their tax bill.

Public Consultation will be conducted through a virtual public meeting and online engagement, following which a community vote will be carried out to determine community support for the program's extension.

Research

A research component has been part of the previous two Nuisance Mosquito Control Program contracts, and will be part of the 2024-2027 Program should the program continue. From 2024-2026 a three-year research program will take place to monitor the ecosystem impacts of Bti and Bs through a controlled experiment. The study will build on previously completed research and will inform adaptive management of the Nuisance Mosquito Control Program. This research will take place through a partnership between the contractor and a Canadian university researcher.

Procurement

The procurement process was carried out by City staff along with Councillor Curry's office. An RFP was released 1 September 2023 and closed 26 September 2023. Staff have followed necessary procedures in evaluating applicants, reviewing financials, and notifying the preferred proponent.

Financing the Project

The two previous projects taking place from 2016-2019 and 2020-2023 were funded by a special levy placed on all properties within the Kanata North Ward 4 boundaries. View Document 1 to identify those boundaries. The 2024-2027 Program will use the same source of funding. This funding will cover the cost of the four year Nuisance Mosquito Control Program as well as the three year research program that will be accompanying the Nuisance Mosquito Control Program.

Community Consultation

Prior to the vote, information will be provided through the community newspaper and at one or more public meetings which will take place to inform the residents about the proposed nuisance mosquito control program and on how the vote per household will work within the targeted area. Information will also be shared through the Councillor's newsletter and website. A comment period will be offered online.

Community Vote

In Q1 2024, the lead department will conduct a vote to determine whether Ward 4 - Kanata North residents wish to support the funding of this project through an area-specific levy that will be applied to taxpayers. The voting process will be explained to residents through community meetings, and through the Councillor's newsletter and website.

Implementation

City Staff from Legal Services, Procurement, PRED, Finance Services, and Public Works have been consulted throughout the development of this program. Public Works Staff will provide oversight of the Mosquito Control Program while a staff member from the Natural Systems and Rural Affairs team at the City of Ottawa will provide oversight of the research component.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications related to this report.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been ongoing with the Community and Ward 4 residents will be notified as outlined in this report. Staff from Legal Services, Public Works, Planning Real Estate and Economic Development, Finance and Corporate Services, and the Accessibility Office have been and will continue to be engaged. A report outlining

residents' feedback will be provided to Finance and Corporate Services Committee and Council following the consultation period.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendations related to this report.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

No advisory committee comment has been sought or provided.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

City Council approved on July 12, 2017, a process for seeking approval of ward or part ward specific special levies. The approved process provides the framework for the consideration of such special levies. The process proposed in this report is in general compliance with this framework. It is noted that unlike local improvement levies which must follow the process under the Local Improvement Regulation, a framework approved in a prior term of Council is not binding upon a subsequent Council.

There is therefore no legal impediment to adopting the recommendation in this report. Should the recommendation in this report be approved and the vote held in accordance with the process outlined therein, Council is however not bound by the outcome of such vote.

CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate implications related to the recommendations in this report.

INDIGENOUS GENDER AND EQUITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no indigenous, gender and equity implications related to the recommendations in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is no risk management implications related to the recommendations in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the City. All costs of the program will be covered by an area-specific levy placed on the properties in the defined area.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

The levy voting process shall have regard for the needs of residents with disabilities. This includes the identification, removal and prevention of barriers, to ensure an accessible, inclusive voting process and commitment to removing disability barriers to voting, and to the four core principles of the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act](#)

- Respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities.
- Respect for the independence of persons with disabilities.
- Goods and services that are integrated for persons with disabilities.
- Equality in the ability to obtain, use and benefit from goods and services given to others.

Information on the levy and voting process will be posted publicly on the applicable Councillor's website, ottawa.ca and the City's social media accounts. The communication will include the methods available to vote as well as how to request disability-related accommodations and supports, which may include voting over the phone with designated staff. As per commitment to the City of Ottawa Accessibility Policy, accessible formats and communication supports will be actively offered and provided throughout the levy voting process and for the ballot itself, upon request.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Term-of-Council priorities are not related to the recommendations in this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – Kanata North ward map

DISPOSITION

To proceed with the consultation phase as outlined in the report and report back to committee and council to recommend moving forward with the area-specific levy if community support is present.

Document 1

