

**2. SPECIAL AREA LEVY FOR KANATA NORTH NUISANCE MOSQUITO
PROGRAM**

**PROGRAMME DE LUTTE CONTRE LES MOUSTIQUES NUISIBLES DE
KANATA-NORD ET PRÉLÈVEMENT PROPRE AU SECTEUR**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

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.

RECOMMANDATION DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil approuve 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.

DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

1. Councillor's report, dated 20 September 2019 (ACS2019-OCC-GEN-0008).

Rapport de la Conseillère, daté le 20 septembre 2019 (ACS2019-OCC-GEN-0008).

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Finance and Economic Development Committee
Comité des finances et du développement économique
1 October 2019 / 1er octobre 2019**

**and Council
et au Conseil
9 October 2019 / 9 octobre 2019**

**Submitted on September 20, 2019
Soumis le 20 septembre 2019**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:
Councillor / Conseillère Jenna Sudds, Kanata North (4)**

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**Ward: KANATA NORTH (4) / KANATA
NORD (4)**

File Number: ACS2019-OCC-GEN-0008

SUBJECT: Special Area Levy for Kanata North Nuisance Mosquito Program

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

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance and Economic Development Committee recommend that Council approve 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.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des finances et du développement économique 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.

BACKGROUND

The quality of life for residents of Kanata North has been impacted by significant populations of “nuisance” mosquitoes. Kanata North is surrounded by many wetlands with large biodiversity, especially in the South March Highlands Conservation Forest, the Kizell pond, and the Beaver pond areas.

There are more than 44 mosquito species in Kanata North. This is due to the high water table and the flat topography, which create the optimal conditions for mosquitoes to flourish and populations to continuously expand. These environmental conditions are found throughout Kanata North and are further exacerbated due to the ground continuously flooding throughout the spring and summer seasons.

For this reason, a request for proposals (RFP) was initiated and in 2016 GDG Environnement (GDG) was contracted by the City of Ottawa to control spring and summer mosquito larvae. Specifically, through the application of only a biological larvicide. The surface area of the treatment zone is approximately 5,968 hectares (ha) to protect an area of 1,825 hectares.

The biological mosquito control program (BMCP) uses a biological larvicide called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), that is applied in the spring to control snow melt

mosquitoes and throughout the summer to control floodwater mosquitoes. The applications of Bti is carried out by GDG staff using various methods.

The key to the success of this program is the careful monitoring of larval development and timing treatments to maximize its effectiveness. This can be accomplished by administering the BMCP based on accurate data and close collaboration between City staff, the ward councillor, and the community.

The results in the last three years of the program indicate that it had the capacity to reduce the mosquito population by over 80 percent in the Kanata North community. Additionally, research carried out by the University of Ottawa indicated that there was no measurable impact on the environmental indicators it set out to measure.

DISCUSSION

The quality of life for residents of Kanata North have been impacted by significant populations of nuisance mosquitoes. The introduction of the Mosquito Nuisance Program in 2016 has been impactful in reducing the population and enabling residents to once again enjoy their property and community.

The Nuisance Mosquito Program Overview

With the four-year trial program coming to an end, many in the community have expressed their support for this program to continue. As a result, Councillor Sudds worked with City staff to issue a Request for Proposals in August 2019 to identify a supplier, should the program be renewed. Councillor Sudds would like to facilitate a community consultation and vote to determine if the community supports the program moving forward for another four years. As in past years, the program will be funded by ward 4 taxpayers via a special levy on their tax bill. The program will be the same as previous years, however, it will require the contractor to demonstrate 80 percent reduction in nuisance populations, with more rigid testing and tracking practices.

The community will be invited to participate in any of the public meetings scheduled in Kanata North to learn more about the program and ask any questions they may have. Further, a community vote will be carried out in Q1 of 2020 to determine whether the community supports renewing this program.

Research

Staff from the Natural Systems unit of PIED put together a research project for the pilot of this program from 2016-2019. This research project was designed to ensure that the more comprehensive mosquito abatement program would not damage the environmental areas that the City owns and has protected. Further research will be done as part of the upcoming program in partnership with one or more Canadian university researchers. This study will monitor the ecosystem impacts of Bti and Bs, building on the previously completed research, and will inform adaptive management of the nuisance mosquito control program.

Procurement

City staff are assisting in administering the procurement process. An RFP was published that covered two components, a Nuisance Mosquito Control Program, and a research component. This closed on September 13, 2019 and an evaluation team is currently working to finalize the process. Upon conclusion, further financial and proponent information will be circulated to Council for their consideration prior to approval of the special levy program.

Financing the Project

The previous project was funded in 2016-2019 via a special levy placed on all properties within the Kanata North Ward 4 boundaries as shown in Document 1. This funding covered all the cost for the four years of the mosquito control program and the three years of the research program. The same method would be used to fund the 2020-2023 program to ensure all costs of the contract are recovered through the levy program.

Community Consultation

Community consultation on this program and special levy has been ongoing and will consist of a further three months process. On June 18, 2019 the Ottawa University research student presented the findings to the community on the research component of the program. Further, GDG presented to the community on the administration of the program.

Further consultation will consist of multiple stages to maximize community engagement and access to information. Councillor Sudds will host two community townhalls on October 22nd and November 29th with the possibility of additional community townhalls

if required. For these townhalls the selected proponent will be present to answer questions and provide technical information.

Additionally, an online engagement tool will be utilized to capture feedback from residents and social media, the councillor's newsletter and website will be used to inform residents of the process. Printed material will be posted in community centers throughout the Kanata North community and ads will be placed in the community paper. Care will be made to maximize accessible material and the accessibility office has been engaged and will be consulted on the material used throughout the process.

Community Vote

For the administration of the vote, Canada Post will be used to send voting information to all households in Kanata North. This will include a ballot, a unique identifier, and a return envelope. Each envelope will have "BALLOT ENCLOSED FOR KANATA NORTH MOSQUITO PROGRAM" printed prominently on the envelope. Residents may, (1) return the ballot, or (2) use the unique identifier on their ballot to submit their vote online. To vote online households must use their unique identifier to submit their vote through an online engagement tool. Additionally, voting will be possible over the phone to minimize accessibility barriers that may arise. A designated staff member will be able to assist residents that wish to use this method. Every effort will be made to ensure successful delivery of paper ballots either through Canada Post or hand delivery. The counting of ballots will be done by City Staff and volunteers who will sign non-disclosure agreement.

Implementation

City staff from legal, procurement, planning, finance, and public works have been consulted throughout the development of this program. Public works staff will provide oversight of the mosquito control program while the Natural systems Unit will provide oversight of the research component.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has been on going with the Community and residents will be notified as outlined in this report. City staff from the City Clerk office, legal, public works, PIED, finance, and the accessibility office have been engaged. A report outlining resident's feedback will be provided to the committee at the conclusion of the three-month consultation period.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

Councillor Sudds is aware of the 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. However, 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. Staff understand that the cost of the mosquito control program, and thus the amount of the resulting levy remains to be established pending the result of the request for proposals process. Staff further understand that such amounts will become known during the consultation process in advance of the vote being taken.

Should the recommendation be approved and the vote held in accordance with the process outlined therein, Council is not bound by the outcome of such vote.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There is no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the City. All costs of the program will be covered by a special area 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.

Voters may choose to submit their ballot by mail or through an online engagement tool, a public engagement web site platform that can be used by many residents to submit their vote electronically. Although, electronic voting may eliminate many of the barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, in order to comprehensively meet the needs of all persons with disabilities, a staff member at the Councillor's Ward office will also be listed as a contact to provide individual support.

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

This matter is not associated with any Term of Council priorities.

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 special area levy if community support is present.

