



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

August 11, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Peter Tonazzo, Director of Planning
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: Drinking Water Source Protection – Appointment of Risk Management Inspector

Purpose

The current Risk Management Inspector (RMI) retired on August 1, 2025, and it is recommended that Council appoint Gerard Lavoie as the new RMI. Mr. Lavoie currently fills the roles of GIS Applications Specialist and Drinking Water Source Protection Manager with the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority.

Background

The *Clean Water Act 2006* and Drinking Water Source Protection is an outcome of the Walkerton Tragedy, which occurred in 2000. The resulting Walkerton Commission, led by Chief Justice O'Connor, recommended a 'multi-barrier approach' to protect Ontario's drinking water resource. The intent of the *Clean Water Act* is to protect existing and future drinking water sources. Part of the 'multi-barrier approach' included the creation of a Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Committee¹, a SSM Region Source Protection Plan², and the establishment of Risk Management Official (RMO) and Risk Management Inspector (RMI) positions, to oversee the implementation of the Source Protection Plan. Municipal Councils are required to appoint the RMO and RMI positions.

On December 2, 2013, Council appointed Peter Tonazzo, Director of Planning as the Risk Management Official (RMO) and Marlene McKinnon from the Sault Ste. Marie Conservation Authority as the Risk Management Inspector. The RMI reports to the RMO.

Analysis

The main role of the RMO is one of oversight and approval. The RMO is ultimately responsible for the RMI and the implementation of the Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Plan. The role of the RMI is one of technical support, site inspections, monitoring, and reporting to the RMO and Source Protection Committee.

¹ [Source Protection Committee - Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority \(SSMRCA\)](#)

² [Approved Updated Source Protection Plan April 2021](#)

The current RMI retired on August 1, 2025, and it is recommended that Council appoint Gerard Lavoie, who currently fills the roles of GIS Applications Specialist and Drinking Water Source Protection Manager with the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority. Mr. Lavoie completed the required Provincial Training in November and December 2024.

Financial Implications

The RMI position is currently funded through the Public Utilities Commission of the City of Sault Ste. Marie; therefore, appointing a new RMI will not have any impacts to municipal finances.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

The RMI position plays a key role in implementing the Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Plan, which manages land uses in vulnerable areas that could pose a threat to the city's drinking water system; therefore, appointment of the RMI is linked to Focus Area 3: Infrastructure, monitoring, and maintaining existing infrastructure.

This report is not directly linked to any climate change policies.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Director of Planning dated August 11, 2025 concerning Appointment of Risk Management Inspector be received and that Gerard Lavoie be appointed as the Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Inspector.

Respectfully submitted,

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