



# DRUMHELLER

## C O U N C I L P O L I C Y



COUNCIL POLICY #C-02-01

### Plugged Sewers

#### THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO:

Provide for dealing with plugged sewer services.

#### POLICY STATEMENT:

1. Residents are encouraged to contact a private plumbing firm when a sewer blockage occurs. Plumbers are required to advise the Town as to whether the blockage occurred on Town or private property and the nature of the blockage (plugging versus structural).
2. If the blockage is determined to be of a structural nature (pipe failure and tree roots are considered structural) and located solely on Town property, the plumbers are to bill the Town directly at rates established by the town. In circumstances where the failure is at the connection point, consideration for cost sharing will be made. Where failure is a result of tree roots and there are no public trees present, the homeowner may have to cover the entire cost of repair. Blockages due to plugging which occur on the Town's property are the responsibility of the homeowner.
3. The connection point will be determined solely by the Town and is generally described as that point where the privately installed piping is connected to the public system, regardless of its relation to the property line.
4. Camera inspections may be conducted to confirm the nature and location of the structural problem. Specific requests for camera inspections by the homeowner relating to problems located on private property may be billed to the homeowner.
5. The Town is to respond if a plumber is unable to clear a blockage on Town property.
6. The Town will re-lay the Town's portion of the pipe if repeated structural blockages occur, assuming the grade is not a problem.
7. In areas where root intrusion is apparent on Town and private property, and no other structural failure has been determined, the Town will cost share on root foaming from the sewer main to the clean out in the home.
8. Staff are encouraged to exercise their discretion in determining responsibility with the benefit of doubt being with the homeowner.

Adopted by Council

Date: September 24, 2001

Mayor of Drumheller

Chief Administrative Officer