

Order No. 107/16

**AN ORDER RESPECTING THE CITY OF SELKIRK UTILITY
APPROVAL TO USE UTILITY RESERVE FUNDS**

August 9, 2016

**BEFORE: The Hon. Anita Neville, P.C., B.A. (Hons.), Acting Chair
Carol Hainsworth, C.B.A., Member**

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1.0 Executive Summary

By this Order, the Manitoba Public Utilities Board (Board) approves the use of Utility Reserve Funds by the City of Selkirk (City) for non-conventional practices for a water conservation program.

2.0 The Issue

The Board has identified the following issue in this matter.

Issue

A request by the City of Selkirk for permission from the Public Utilities Board to use utility reserve funds for non-conventional practices of a water conservation program.

In its letter of request, the City of Selkirk outlined the Water Conservation Program. It is described as a water retrofit program where 500 utility account holders will have the opportunity to have their existing toilet(s), showerhead and sink aerator changed out for new water conserving models.

The program includes having a contractor from the City change out the resident's toilet(s). They will also have the option to receive a free energy efficient showerhead and sink aerator installed through the *Manitoba Hydro Power Smart Program* at no additional cost. Residents will be billed for the retrofit through their water bills in quarterly installments. The estimated cost is \$236.17 per toilet installation.

The City will need to pay its contractor for the installations and this is what the primary use of the Utility reserve funds would be. Under the current By-law, it is stated:

“That no portion of the Reserve Fund or any accretions thereto shall be disbursed or expended for any purpose unless the approval of the Public Utilities Board has been first obtained, and such disbursements or expenditures shall comply with any and all conditions or restrictions imposed by the Public Utilities Board”.

Once payment has been made by the participants, the Reserve Fund would be paid back. The installations are proposed to begin in September 2016, which would mean that some of the payback to the Utility Reserve would occur in 2016 and some would carry over to 2017.

3.0 Board Findings on the Issue

The City of Selkirk is to be commended on its green initiative to promote water conservation. The Board supports this request to use the Utility Reserve Funds to cover the costs of implementing the Water Conservation Program as previously outlined.

This approval is for this one time only and should the City wish to extend this program Board approval will once again be required.

Board decisions may be appealed in accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of *The Public Utilities Board Act*, or reviewed in accordance with Section 36 of the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Board's Rules may be viewed on the Board's website at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

4.0 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The City of Selkirk's request to use the Utility's reserve funds for non-conventional practices for a water conservation program is HEREBY APPROVED on this one-time basis.
2. The City of Selkirk will return the approved funds in full to the Reserve Fund by no later than December 1, 2017.

Fees payable upon this Order – \$150.00

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

"THE HON. ANITA NEVILLE, P.C., B.A. (Hons.)"
Acting Chair

"JENNIFER DUBOIS, CPA, CMA"
Acting Secretary

Certified a true copy of Order No. 107/16
issued by The Public Utilities Board

Acting Secretary