

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: June 3, 2025</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Raj Sheth, P.Eng, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: June 18, 2025</p>

Subject

Amending the Business Licensing By-law to Support the Basement Flooding Prevention and Flood Resilience Rebate Programs

Recommendation

1. That the Business Licensing By-Law 0001-2006, as amended, be further amended to exempt contractors performing work under the Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program and Flood Resilience Rebate Program from the requirement of holding a business license in Mississauga, where the work was carried out on or after July 16, 2024 and July 8, 2013 respectively.
2. That the Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program By-law 0014-2025 be amended to remove the requirement that Eligible Work, as defined in the by-law, be completed by an individual who holds a valid City of Mississauga business license.
3. All other necessary by-laws be enacted.

Background

In response to extreme rainfall events and the impacts such events can have on Mississauga homes, the City implemented two financial rebate programs to support residents in preventing and mitigating flood damage to their homes.

The Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program provides eligible residents up to \$7,500 to help offset the cost of installing basement flooding prevention measures including sump pumps and storm lateral backwater valves. Meanwhile, the Flood Resilience Rebate Program helps residents cover the cost of installing water-resistant materials and other water-proofing measures in and around their homes. Residents can apply for a rebate of 50 percent of the cost of the upgrades, up to a maximum of \$3,000 under this program.

Present Status

To qualify for a rebate under the Basement Flooding Prevention and Flood Resilience Rebate Programs (the “Rebate Programs”), eligible works, as a requirement, must be installed by a qualified contractor holding a valid City of Mississauga business licence, in accordance with the Business Licensing By-law 0001-2006, as amended (the “Business Licensing By-law”).

Comments

During Council deliberation on March 19, 2025, concerns were raised on the shortage of qualified contractors who hold a City of Mississauga business licence, given the increased demand for contractors needed to address the impacts of significant storm events. Contributing to the problem, a number of rebate applications have been declined, primarily under the Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program, due to requirements not being met - work was being completed by contractors not holding a City of Mississauga business licence. Staff were subsequently asked to look for opportunities to allow for work, completed by qualified contractors without a City of Mississauga business licence, to be eligible under the Rebate Programs.

In collaboration with staff from Legal Services and Environmental Services, Enforcement investigated various alternatives and put forward the following recommendations for Council’s consideration:

By-law Amendments

Staff recommend amending the Business Licensing By-law to exempt contractors from the need to hold a Mississauga Business Licence for completing work under the Rebate Programs. However, it should be noted that as a requirement under both Rebate Programs, contractors must still be qualified in their skilled trade profession in Ontario.

To be consistent with the amendment to the Business Licensing By-law, the Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program By-law 0014-2025 will also be amended to remove the requirement for contractors completing work under this program to hold a City of Mississauga business licence.

These by-law amendments would simplify requirements and help support residents access a wider pool of contractors, who are qualified under their profession, to help residents protect their homes and mitigate the impacts of significant storm events.

Implementation

Should the report recommendations be adopted, the requirement for having a Mississauga business licence will be removed from the Rebate Program applications, both online and paper-based. The terms and conditions of the Rebate Programs will be revised to reflect, among other updates, the requirement for contractors to be qualified in their skilled trade profession in

Ontario. In addition, the changes will be retroactive to July 16, 2024 for the Basement Flooding Prevention Rebate Program and July 8, 2013 for the Flood Resilience Rebate Program. This will allow staff to re-evaluate and approve previous applications that were declined solely on the basis of not having work completed by a contractor holding a City of Mississauga business licence.

Financial Impact

With the approval of select applications that were previously declined, the City will increase the amount of flood prevention rebate funds issued by approximately \$300,000. However, there is no financial impact as the expected increase falls within the previously approved budget for the Rebate Programs.

Conclusion

The recommended amendments to the Business Licensing By-law will support residents by simplifying the eligibility requirements for the Rebate Programs.



Raj Sheth, P.Eng, Commissioner of Community Services

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