Waterworks Capital Investment Strategy - Town of Lanigan

POLICY TITLE: *Capital Waterworks Investment Strategy*	**ADOPTED BY:** *Town of Lanigan Council*	**EFFECTIVE DATE:**
ORIGIN: *General Government*	**RESOLUTION #:**	**PAGE NUMBER** **1 OF 4**

1. Strategic Objectives

1.1 Economic Growth: Stimulate local economic development by investing in water infrastructure that attracts businesses and supports key sectors like agriculture, mining, commercial, and manufacturing.

1.2 Quality of Life: Enhance the well-being of residents by ensuring access to clean, safe, and reliable water. Record and register water utility services to plan for maintenance, repairs, and upgrades.

1.3 Sustainability: Invest in green infrastructure and renewable energy to ensure long-term sustainability of water services while promoting climate resilience.

1.4 Fiscal Responsibility: Prioritize projects that offer high returns on investment, maintaining a balanced budget, and leveraging various funding sources to maximize financial efficiency.

2. Priority Areas for Investment

2.1 Water Infrastructure Development

(a) Water Supply Systems: Improve, upgrade, or replace water systems to meet growing demands, ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations.

(b) Wastewater Management: Enhance wastewater treatment facilities to prevent environmental damage and support population growth.

(c) Solid Waste Facilities: Integrate solid waste management into water-related projects to promote a circular economy and reduce environmental risks.

(d) Asset Management: Utilize the Asset Management Plan to prioritize investment, projects, and funding, focusing on critical areas.

2.2 Economic Development

(a) Industrial Growth: Ensure that water supply and wastewater systems meet the needs of expanding industrial parks and zones.

(b) Agricultural Support: Invest in water infrastructure tailored to the needs of agriculture, particularly irrigation and water conservation projects.

(c) Mining Support: Invest in water infrastructure tailored to the needs of mining, particularly supply and water conservation projects.

2.3 Social Infrastructure

(a) Public Health and Safety: Invest in water-related infrastructure that ensures safe drinking water and proper sanitation to improve overall community health.

(b) Recreational Water Facilities: Develop and maintain recreational water resources, including parks, lakes, and public swimming areas, to boost quality of life and tourism.

2.4 Environmental Sustainability

(a) Renewable Energy for Water Services: Invest in renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar and wind) to power water treatment plants and pumping stations, reducing long-term operating costs and carbon footprint.

(b) Water Conservation and Efficiency: Promote water-saving technologies and practices for households, businesses, and municipal operations.

(c) Flood Control and Stormwater Management: Integrate climate-resilient designs into water and wastewater systems, ensuring protection against flooding and water-related disasters.

3. Funding and Financing Strategy

3.1 Long-Term Debt: Secure funding through loans or debentures with clear repayment strategies based on reliable revenue streams. Ensure proper approval processes for debt limits and borrowing bylaws.

3.2 Government Grants: Apply for provincial and federal grants, such as the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), to support capital-intensive water projects.

3.3 Public-Private Partnerships (P3s): Engage in P3s to reduce the financial burden on the municipality while accelerating project completion and operational efficiency.

3.4 User Fees: Adjust water rates and implement charges for services like wastewater and stormwater management to generate revenue for future investments.

4. Project Prioritization

4.1 Cost-Benefit Analysis

(a) Assess the costs and benefits of each water project, including direct costs (infrastructure, labor) and indirect benefits (health, environmental protection).

(b) Quantify these values where possible and calculate net benefits to prioritize high-impact projects.

4.2 Community Consultation: Engage the public through surveys, town hall meetings, and workshops to ensure water projects meet community needs.

4.3 Risk Assessment

(a) Identify hazards such as water contamination, infrastructure failure, and flooding.

(b) Mitigate risks by implementing modern technologies, strict monitoring, and proactive maintenance.

Identified Risks	Potential Harm & Severity	Mitigation Approach	Implementation	Results
Contaminated Water	Health Risks (High)	Upgrade water treatment facilities	Year 1-2	Improved water quality
Aging Infrastructure	Service Interruptions	Scheduled infrastructure replacements	Year 1-3	Reduced interruptions
Flooding	Infrastructure Damage	Build resilient stormwater systems	Year 1-3	Lower flood risk

4.4 Phased Implementation: Prioritize projects based on urgency and available funding, rolling them out in phases over a multi-year plan.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 Performance Metrics: Establish Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track progress, including:
- (a) Water quality standards compliance;
- (b) Service reliability (fewer disruptions); and
- (c) Financial performance (budget adherence).

5.2 Regular Reporting: Provide regular updates to the Council, provincial government, citizens and stakeholders on waterworks, project progress, issues, and outcomes through open forums, newsletters, and/or reports.

5.3 Adaptive Management: Use performance data to adjust strategies and make course corrections, ensuring continued alignment with goals.

6. Stakeholder Engagement and Communication

6.1 Transparency: Maintain open communication with the public on project goals, budgets, timelines, and outcomes.

6.2 Partnerships: Collaborate with businesses, other municipalities, and non-profits to leverage expertise and funding.

6.3 Advocacy: Lobby at provincial and federal levels to highlight the municipality's water infrastructure needs and secure additional resources.

7. Long-term Vision and Sustainability

7.1 Integrated Planning: Align water infrastructure investments with broader municipal plans, such as population growth, economic strategies, and environmental objectives.

7.2 Resilience Planning: Ensure all projects are designed to handle future challenges, including climate change impacts, population increases, and technological advancements.

7.3 Continuous Improvement: Regularly update the water works strategy to reflect evolving needs and opportunities, fostering innovation and long-term sustainability.

7.4 Asset Management Plan: Implement a robust asset management policy to document the level of service, prioritize maintenance, and guide investment decisions.