



REQUEST FOR DECISION
SUBMITTED BY: Chantalle Newell
SUBMITTED FOR: Alain Muise, CPA and Council
DATE: December 5, 2025
SUBJECT: Drinking Water Program

BACKGROUND
The Drinking Water Coupon Program launched on September 8, 2025. The original end date was November 30, 2025; however, Council extended the program to December 22, 2025. The program is fully funded by the Province and administered by municipal staff.
WHERE WE ARE NOW
Below are the weekly statistics since program launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week 1:</b> 121 residents</li> <li>• <b>Week 2:</b> 157 residents (64 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 3:</b> 144 residents (40 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 4:</b> 137 residents (31 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 5:</b> 166 residents (32 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 6:</b> 180 residents (34 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 7:</b> 190 residents (28 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 8:</b> 198 residents (34 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 9:</b> 161 residents (10 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 10:</b> 99 residents (3 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 11:</b> 86 residents (0 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 12:</b> 38 residents (0 new)</li> <li>• <b>Week 13:</b> 22 residents (0 new)</li> </ul> <p>Since Council approved the extension, participation has steadily decreased, and the number of new users has dropped to zero in recent weeks. This trend indicates that demand for the program has significantly declined.</p>
RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommend that the Drinking Water Coupon Program conclude as scheduled on <b>December 22, 2025</b> , as the demonstrated need for the program continues to diminish.
Upon closure of the program, the Province of Nova Scotia and REMO will be notified, and the Department of Finance will finalize all program-related billings.