



ADMINISTRATIVE COMPILATION

BY-LAW NUMBER 482-2009

**CONCERNING THE USE OF DRINKING WATER IN GATINEAU AND
REPEALING BY-LAW NUMBERS 138-2003 AND 741-92**

Adopted by the Municipal Council on May 5, 2009
Brought into force on May 13, 2009
Amended pursuant to the following by-laws:

By-law Number	Date of Approval by the Municipal Council	Date Brought Into force
482-1-2010	2010 05 11	2010 05 19
482-2-2021	2021 10 5	2021 10 09

LAST UPDATED: 2022-04-11

FOREWORD

Readers are hereby cautioned that any error or omission that could be found in the following text shall not detract from the enforceability of the by-laws and amendments included herein, as approved in their original form.

Published by Service du greffe



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WHEREAS the municipal council considers it appropriate and in the public interest to tighten the regulations on the use of drinking water within Gatineau's city limits;

AND WHEREAS notice of motion number AP-2009-396, which must precede the adoption of this by-law, was given at the municipal council meeting on April 21, 2009:

NOW THEREFORE GATINEAU'S MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECREES THE FOLLOWING:

CHAPTER 1 **INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION**

1. In this by-law, unless the context requires or entails otherwise, the following definitions apply:
 - 1° **“manual watering”**: watering with a hose held for the whole time by a physical person.
 - 2° **“mechanical watering”**: any form of watering other than manual watering;
 - 3° **“appropriate authority”**: the Municipal Council of Ville de Gatineau or the Executive Committee, in accordance with their respective areas of responsibility;
 - 4° **“water”**: water coming from the municipal water supply system;
 - 5° **“responsible official”**:
 - a) the directeur/directrice du Service de l'environnement and his/her representatives,
 - b) the directeur/directrice du Service des travaux publics and his/her representatives, and
 - c) the directeur/directrice du Service des infrastructures and his/her representatives.
(By-law number 482-1-2010)
 - 6° **“person”**: any physical person or legal entity, association or corporation, and any heir, successor/legatee or other legal representative.

2. This by-law sets out measures for the responsible use of drinking water for watering or hosing down throughout Gatineau, and prescribes access to and use of fire hydrants in Gatineau.

CHAPTER 2
CONTROL OF THE CONSUMPTION OF WATER
FROM THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

3. At all times and all year,
 - 1° it is prohibited to hose down a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, building or structure with a watering hose that is not equipped with an automatic shutoff device;
(By-law number 482-1-2010)
 - 1.10 it is prohibited to manually water a garden, lawn, tree, shrub or any similar vegetation outside a building with a watering hose that is not equipped with an automatic shutoff device;
(By-law number 482-2-2021)
 - 2° it is prohibited to hose down a driveway, courtyard, sidewalk, public or private road, mound of snow or neighbouring property;
 - 3° it is prohibited to use a watering hose that is not attached to the building for which it is intended;
 - 4° it is prohibited to use more than one watering hose per building or to hook up more than one attachment or mechanical watering system unless it is to fill a pool;
 - 5° it is prohibited to use drinking water in violation of a prohibition, limitation or suspension covered in sections 8 and 9 of this by-law.

Subsection 2° of this section does not apply to the hosing down of a skating rink or snow structure when these are to be used for recreational purposes;
(By-law number 482-1-2010)
 - 6° it is prohibited to water a golf course, nursery, sod farm or any other land intended for crop cultivation.
(By-law number 482-2-2021)

CHAPTER 3
CONTROLLING THE CONSUMPTION OF WATER
COMING FROM THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN THE SUMMERTIME

4. Notwithstanding section 3, for the period from May 1 to September 30,
 - 1° it is prohibited on Mondays to either manually or mechanically
 - a) water a garden, lawn, tree, shrub or any similar vegetation outside a building;
 - b) hose down a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, building or structure;
(By-law number 482-2-2021)
 - c) add water to a pool.
 - 2° it is prohibited to mechanically water a garden, lawn, tree, shrub or any other similar vegetation outside a building other than:

- a) on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday between 3 and 5 a.m. for a building with an even civic number; or
- b) on a Wednesday, Friday or Sunday between 3 and 5 a.m. for a building with an odd civic number.

This section does not apply to water fountains that are being used for recreational purposes.

(By-law number 482-1-2010)

CHAPTER 4 EXCEPTIONS

- 5. Notwithstanding section 4, holders of a watering permit may water a newly seeded lawn or laid turf:
 - a) manually at all times;
 - b) mechanically every day between 3 and 5 a.m. and 8 and 10 p.m.;
 - c) mechanically throughout the day when the grass turf is laid.

The watering permit and, if applicable, the proof of purchase of the grass turf, shall be posted so as to be visible from the public right-of-way.

(By-law number 482-2-2021)

- 6. The watering permit indicated in section 5 may be purchased for \$15 in any municipal service centre, and is valid for 14 days from its date of issue. The cost of a watering permit may be changed at any time by the municipal council under the by-law on fees.
- 7. Notwithstanding section 4, it is permitted to water, either mechanically or manually for up to two hours, a lawn that was treated that same day for white grubs or other parasites.

Proof of treatment shall be posted so as to be visible from the public right-of-way.

7.1 Notwithstanding subparagraph b) of the first paragraph of section 4, the owner or operator of a business or industry may water down a motor vehicle or recreational vehicle at any time provided that all the following conditions are met:

- a) The owner or operator holds a business permit;
- b) The facility has a drinking water meter monitored by Gatineau;
- c) The watering takes place as part of the normal operations of the business or industry.

7.2 Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2 of section 4, garden centre owners or operators may manually or mechanically water, at all times, all plants pertaining to their business operations provided that all the following conditions are met:

- a) The owner or operator holds a business permit;
- b) The facility has a drinking water meter monitored by Gatineau;
- c) The watering takes place as part of the normal operations of the business or industry.

(By-law number 482-2-2021)

8. In the event of a water shortage, the Mayor or, in his or her absence, the Deputy Mayor, may limit or even prohibit for a specific time, in all or part of Gatineau, the use of drinking water for outdoor watering or hosing down motor vehicles, recreational vehicles or buildings and filling pools.
(By-law number 482-2-2021)

However, the responsible official may lift this prohibition before the final deadline.

9. In case of an emergency, a major watermain break, conflagration or to fill the reservoirs, the responsible official is authorized to suspend the use of drinking water for outdoor watering, washing motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, buildings or structures and filling pools in all or part of Gatineau until the emergency is resolved.
(By-law number 482-2-2021)

CHAPTER 5

USE OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

10. Gatineau guarantees neither the uninterrupted service, the quality or the pressure of the water provided through its water supply system.
(By-law number 482-2-2021)
11. Nobody may refuse to pay a special annual levy for the water supply system or any fee for water because the quality or quantity of water provided is unsatisfactory, whatever the cause may be.
(By-law number 482-2-2021)
12. It is prohibited for any person whose property is connected to the municipal water supply system to provide or sell water to other people, to use it for anything other than his or her personal use, to increase the supply of water agreed upon or to unnecessarily waste water.
13. No person may use the water provided through the municipal water supply system to feed or fill reservoirs, refrigerators or other appliances that use water for the purpose of construction or transportation, except for municipal employees who use water from the (previously identified) sections that need to be purged.

CHAPTER 6

HOSES AND CONNECTIONS

14. It is prohibited for any person to connect a hose to the municipal water supply system without obtaining prior authorization for the work in the form of a permit.
15. No person may leave a valve or tap in poor working condition or built so as to waste the water from the municipal water supply system or allow it to be wasted.
16. No alterations may be made to any pipes or instruments installed by Gatineau.
17. No person may open up or shut down the municipal water supply system without authorization from the responsible official.
(By-law number 482-1-2010)

CHAPTER 7

FIRE HYDRANTS

18. Subject to the by-law, it is strictly prohibited for anyone other than a duly authorized municipal representative to use fire hydrants for any purpose whatsoever.

19. When the competent authority contracts to have municipal work done by a contractor, or a public organization undertakes work of a municipal nature that requires the use of water, this contractor, public organization, or their subcontractors may use pumps to access raw water in Gatineau. In the event that they require drinking water, they shall obtain prior authorization in the form of a provisional permit to use a fire hydrant and drinking water from the Service des travaux publics, the Service des infrastructures or the Service de l'environnement.

(By-law number 482-2-2021)

The user shall have the permit in his or her possession when using a fire hydrant and shall show it to the responsible official on request.

(By-law number 482-1-2010)

- 19.1 When an organization or a contractor carries out activities or work for the benefit of the Gatineau community that requires the use of water, this organization or contractor shall use the raw water pumps available throughout the territory. In the event that they require drinking water, they shall obtain prior authorization in the form of a special provisional permit to use a fire hydrant and drinking water from the Service des travaux publics, the Service des infrastructures or the Service de l'environnement.

The user shall have the permit in his or her possession at all times when using a fire hydrant, and shall show it to the responsible official on request.

(By-law number 482-1-2010)

20. The construction of buildings, walls or fences, the planting of hedges, trees or bushes, the construction of parking lots or driveways, and all other obstacles within less than one metre from any fire hydrant is prohibited.

CHAPTER 8 INTERFERENCE

21. It is prohibited to interfere with any action by a person acting legally under this by-law, to mislead that person through resistance or false statements, to refuse to provide that person with information or documents that he or she is entitled to request or review, or to hide or destroy a relevant document or good.
22. A responsible official is authorized to visit and review, at any reasonable hour, any real or immovable property, as well as the inside or outside of any house, building or structure to ensure compliance with this by-law. Any owner, tenant or occupant of this property is required to give the official free access thereto.

CHAPTER 9 PENAL PROVISIONS AND SANCTIONS

23. The responsible official is in charge of enforcing the by-law. This official or his or her representatives may issue a ticket if there is good reason to believe that the by-law has in some way been violated.
24. A person who contravenes any provision of this by-law is committing an offence and is liable to a minimum fine of \$200 if the offender is a physical person, and \$500 if the offender is a legal entity; in the case of a subsequent offence, a minimum fine of \$400 if the offender is a physical person, and \$1,000 if the offender is a legal entity.

In the case of a violation that occurs continuously, this continuation constitutes, on a daily basis, a distinct and separate violation.

The offender is subject to a fine for every day on which the offence is continuing

25. The owner, tenant or occupant of a building may be found guilty of any offence under this by-law unless he or she can prove that the offence occurred without his or her knowledge or consent, and that he or she took the necessary measures to prevent the offence from happening.

CHAPTER 10
REPEAL AND COMING INTO FORCE

26. This by-law repeals the following provisions and by-laws:
- 1° By-law number 138-2003 and its amendments;
 - 2° Former City of Hull by-law number 2507 and its amendments; and
 - 3° Former City of Gatineau by-law number 741-92 chapters 2 to 4 and 6 to 8.

CHAPTER 11
COMING INTO FORCE

27. The by-law shall come into force in compliance with the law.

BY-LAW PASSED AT THE MAY 5, 2009 SESSION

MR. PATRICE MARTIN
COUNCILLOR AND
COUNCIL CHAIR

M^e SUZANNE OUELLET
CITY CLERK