

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
BY-LAW NUMBER B-500  
RESPECTING BUILDING SERVICE CONNECTIONS**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Council of Halifax Regional Municipality pursuant to Section 329(1) of the Municipal Government Act as follows:

**Short Title**

- 1 This by-law shall be known as By-Law Number B-500, and may be cited as the "Building Service Connections By-law".

**Interpretation**

- 2 In this Bylaw, "Building Service Connection" means a piping system that conveys sewage, liquid waste, stormwater or surface runoff from a property to a municipal sewer.

**Responsibility**

- 3 (1) Every building service connection shall be designed and constructed at the expense of the owner of the property served by the connection, whether on privately owned property or not.
- (2) If a service connection serving a residential building having less than three dwelling units is obstructed, the following procedure shall be followed in removing the obstruction:
- (a) The owner of building is responsible for the initial investigation and clearing of the obstruction. The owner shall secure the services of a licensed plumber to identify the cause and the location of the obstruction and take all measures to remove the obstruction before requesting assistance from the municipality. The expenses of the plumber and any necessary video services shall be borne by the owner.
- (b) If the obstruction is located in the portion of the service connection on private property, the owner of the building is responsible for all the costs of removal of the obstruction, including the expenses of any contractor to excavate and replace the pipe if necessary. The owner shall obtain any permits required by municipal by-laws before commencing any excavation.
- (c) If the obstruction is located in the portion of the service

connection on municipal property, and the plumber is unable to remove it pursuant to clause (a),, the owner shall submit to the Municipality a written report from the plumber and a video tape identifying the location and probable cause of the obstruction; and on the receipt of the report and video tape, the Municipality shall investigate the obstruction and if it is determined by the Municipality that the cause of the obstruction was

- i non-structural, the Municipality shall advise the owner of its determination and the owner shall be responsible for clearing the obstruction, including replacing the pipe, if necessary; or
  - ii if the obstruction is caused by a broken, sheared, sagged or collapsed pipe or some other structural problem, the Municipality will rectify the deficiency at its expense and reimburse the owner for the cost of plumbing and video services in an amount not exceeding \$400.00, including HST.
- (3) If a service connection serving a residential building having three or more dwelling units or a commercial, institutional or industrial building is obstructed, the owner of the building shall be responsible for the removal of the obstruction, including replacing the pipe, if necessary, and for all costs and expense associated therewith, including the costs of plumbing and video services. The owner shall obtain any permits required by municipal by-laws before commencing any excavation.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if it is determined that an obstruction in the service connection was caused by the penetration of roots from a municipal tree, the Municipality will
  - (a) absorb all costs for the removal of the obstruction; and
  - (b) reimburse the property owner for any costs incurred for the investigation, including the costs of plumbing and video services, up to a maximum of \$400.00 including HST.

Done and passed in Council this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D., 1999.

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Mayor

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Municipal Clerk

I, Vi Carmichael, Clerk of the Halifax Regional Municipality, here by certify that the above-noted by-law was passed at a meeting of the Halifax Regional Council held on May 11, 1999.

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Vi Carmichael, Municipal Clerk

**BY-LAW B-500**

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Notice of Motion:	April 6, 1999
First Reading:	April 13, 1999
“Notice of Intent” Publication:	April 17, 1999
Second Reading:	May 11, 1999
Approval of Minister of Housing & Municipal Affairs:	N/A
Effective Date:	May 15, 1999

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**Amendment 1 - (B-501)**  
**Section 3 repealed and replaced**

Notice of Motion:	May 25, 2004
First Reading:	June 8, 2004
Notice of Public Hearing - Publication:	June 12, 2004
Second Reading:	June 29, 2004
Approval of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations:	N/A
Effective Date:	July 3, 2004

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**Amendment 2 – (B-502)**  
**Section 3 and 4 amendments**

Notice of Motion:	February 11, 2014
First Reading:	February 25, 2014
Notice of Second Reading - Publication:	March 1, 2014
Second Reading:	March 18, 2014
Approval of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations:	N/A
Effective Date:	March 22, 2014

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