

City of North Bay Report to Council

Report No: IO-2026-006

Date: February 9, 2026

Originator: Karin Pratte

Business Unit:

Department:

Infrastructure and Operations

Water Treatment Plant

Subject: North Bay Drinking Water Plant PFAS Pilot and Design Consulting

Closed Session: yes no

Recommendation

That Council approve a contract increase of \$6,636,882 (plus HST) for a new total contract price of \$14,721,318.42 (plus HST) to Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc. for the provision of engineering consulting services related to PFAS environmental remediation including the PFAS Pilot and Design Consulting for the North Bay Drinking Water Plant as outlined in Report to Council No. IO-2026-006 dated February 9, 2026 from Karin Pratte.

Background

It was determined through sampling that drinking water taken from Trout Lake contains perfluoralkylated substances ("PFAS"). PFAS have been used for many years to manufacture carpets, clothing, and fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food, and other materials. They were also used in aqueous film-forming foams ("AFFF") for firefighting.

The North Bay Jack Garland Airport lands have been owned by the City of North Bay ("City") since 1998, prior to which they were under the ownership of Transport Canada from 1939 to 1998, as "22 Wing" Air Force Base. At 22 Wing Air Force Base, the Department of National Defense ("DND") utilized and released aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) containing a particular type of PFAS, known as perfluorooctanesulfonate ("PFOS").

Since 2017 DND has been leading an investigation of the PFAS contamination in the City of North Bay. In addition, since 2017, the City has been working collaboratively with DND, the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and the Health Unit to support ongoing testing and monitoring for PFAS in Trout Lake.

In 2021, after significant advocacy by the City, a \$20-million Contribution Agreement was executed between the City and DND to fund remediation work at the Jack Garland Airport. The Contribution Agreement has DND funding 97% of the remediation work with the City funding 3%. The Contribution Agreement provides funding from 2021-2027 and has been funding the City's investigation, monitoring and remediation efforts at the Jack Garland Airport along with a draft treatability study that was completed for the City's Drinking Water Treatment Plant.

Ontario sets drinking water standards through the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks ("MECP") which currently has an Interim Advice Value for PFAS of 70ng/L for 11 PFAS. The municipal drinking water is tested quarterly for PFAS concentrations. The City's municipal drinking water is consistently below the interim advice value.

In 2024, Health Canada proposed a non-binding drinking water objective of 30ng/L for the sum of 25 PFAS.

Following the release of the Health Canada objective, the City submitted a funding request to DND for the design and pilot of treatment upgrades at the City's Drinking Water Treatment Plant to treat drinking water to meet the new federal objective. DND approved and executed a second Contribution Agreement for \$8.25 million in funding for delivery of this work. This second Contribution Agreement was approved by Council Resolution No. 2025-426 on December 9, 2025.

The design will inform future funding requests by the City to the Government of Canada for construction and operating of a new drinking water treatment system to provide drinking water below the new federal objective for PFAS.

Financial/Legal Implications

In 2021, a competitive procurement process was undertaken through RFP 2021-79 for the provision of engineering services related to PFAS remediation. Council approved the award of a contract to Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc. ("Jacobs") in October 2021 in the amount of \$4,987,238.42 (plus HST) to support PFAS remediation at the Jack Gardland Airport and the Drinking Water Treatment Plant. The scope of work included environmental and risk assessments, remediation objectives, treatability studies, and design of the remediation plan as well as other requirements arising from discoveries in the performance of the work.

In 2024, Council authorized an increase to the Jacobs' contract in the amount of \$3,097,198.00. The increase was necessary to support the MECP approved field program which increased the scope of work included in Jacobs' contract due to increased sampling and reporting requirements.

Over the past four years, Jacobs has been the City's technical lead for the PFAS remediation workplan in consultation with MECP, DND and NBPSDHU.

The workplan has included the development and implementation of remediation solutions at Jack Garland Airport, treatability studies for surface water and groundwater, and a draft treatability study for the City's Drinking Water Treatment Plant. Jacobs also developed the Drinking Water Treatment Plant PFAS removal workplan which supported the approved funding application with DND and resulted in the \$8.25 million Contribution Agreement.

The City is now looking to further extend Jacobs' engineering consulting contract to incorporate the design and pilot testing for the Drinking Water Treatment Plant, resulting in a \$6.6 million (plus HST) increase in the total contract value.

A legal assessment was conducted to support the award of the contract extension to Jacobs. The recommendation to extend Jacobs' engineering consulting services related to PFAS remediation for the detailed design and 6-month pilot testing at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant is compliant with the Single Source Purchase provisions set out within standard Procurement Methods as defined within the City's Purchasing By-law No. 2013-200, as amended, as well as the Limited Tendering provisions as set out in the Canadian Free Trade Agreement.

The contract amendment would incorporate the detailed design and 6-month pilot testing for the Drinking Water Treatment Plant to the scope of work. The proposed cost of this work is \$6,636,882 (plus HST), increasing the total value of Jacobs' contract to \$14,721,318.42 (plus HST). The proposed work and price increase was reviewed by the Interim City Engineer and the Director of Water, Wastewater, and Environmental Services.

The cost of the detailed design and pilot testing of PFAS treatment at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant will be eligible for funding under the second Contribution Agreement with DND. This Contribution Agreement is for a total sum of \$8,249,214 over a 2-year term, of which the DND will contribute 97% of the costs (\$8,001,738). The City will contribute the remaining 3% (\$247,476), as further outlined in Report to Council IO-2025-017.

Capital Project No. 3083WS – PFAS Treatment at the Drinking Water Treatment Plant, has been established to record expenses and recovery of eligible expenses under the Contribution Agreement and has sufficient funding for this contract.

Corporate Strategic Plan

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural North and Near | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Prosperity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Balanced Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirited Safe Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsible and Responsive Government | |

Specific Objectives

Protect, promote and enhance the environment in all aspects of the city's operations and plans.

Maximize funding opportunities with other governments.

Options Analysis

Option 1:

That Council approve a contract increase of \$6,636,882 (plus HST) for a new total contract price of \$14,721,318.42 (plus HST) to Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc. for the provision of engineering services related to PFAS environmental remediation including the PFAS Pilot and Design Consulting for the North Bay Drinking Water Treatment Plant.

This is the recommended option.

Option 2:

That City Council does not approve an increase in contract price to Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc.

This option is not recommended as moving forward with pilot and design for PFAS removal at the North Bay Drinking Water Treatment Plant is an important step in reducing PFAS impacts in the community.

Recommended Option

That Council approve a contract increase of \$6,636,882 (plus HST) for a new total contract price of \$14,721,318.42 (plus HST) to Jacobs Consultancy Canada Inc. for the provision of engineering services related to PFAS environmental remediation including the PFAS Pilot and Design Consulting for the North Bay Drinking Water Treatment Plant as outlined in Report to Council No. IO-2026-006 dated February 9, 2026 from Karin Pratte.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Karin Pratte, P.Eng.

Title: Director, Water, Wastewater and Environmental Services

I concur with this report and recommendation

Name: Alan Korell, P.Eng.

Title: Interim City Engineer

Name: Shannon Saucier, CPA, CA

Title: Chief Financial Officer /Treasurer

Name: John Severino, P.Eng., MBA

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Personnel designated for continuance:

Name: Karin Pratte, P.Eng.

Title: Director, Water, Wastewater and Environmental Services