

Legislation

Petition

4 (1) A petition for the drainage by means of a drainage works of an area requiring drainage as described in the petition may be filed with the clerk of the local municipality in which the area is situate by,

- (a) the majority in number of the owners, as shown by the last revised assessment roll of lands in the area, including the owners of any roads in the area;
- (b) the owner or owners, as shown by the last revised assessment roll, of lands in the area representing at least 60 per cent of the hectarage in the area;
- (c) where a drainage works is required for a road or part thereof, the engineer, road superintendent or person having jurisdiction over such road or part, despite subsection 61 (5);
- (d) where a drainage works is required for the drainage of lands used for agricultural purposes, the Director. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 4 (1).

Form of petition

(2) A petition under subsection (1) shall be in the form prescribed by the regulations and, where it is filed by an owner or owners under clause (1) (a) or (b), shall be signed by such owner or owners. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 4 (2).

Petition where area lies on each side of boundary line

(3) Where it is desired to construct a drainage works for the drainage of an area composed of lands or roads lying on each side of a boundary line between two or more local municipalities, the council of any of them may proceed upon a petition as required by this Act in all respects, including the sending of notices, as if such area were entirely within the limits of the municipality. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 4 (3).

Person deemed owner

(4) Where a person who is the owner of land, but does not appear by the last revised assessment roll of the municipality to be the owner, is a petitioner, the person shall be deemed an owner if the person's ownership is proved to the satisfaction of the clerk, and, if the person who appears by the assessment roll to be the owner is a petitioner, the person's name shall be disregarded in determining the sufficiency of the petition. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 4 (4).

Persons jointly assessed

(5) Where two or more persons are jointly assessed for a property, in determining the sufficiency of a petition, they shall be deemed to be one owner. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 4 (5).

Section 10(1) – Preliminary report

Where the council of the initiating municipality deems it expedient, it may, or if it has received notice under section 6 that an environmental appraisal is required, it shall instruct the engineer to prepare a preliminary report containing a sketched plan of

the drainage works and an estimate of the cost thereof in so far as it is practicable to do so, and which shall include the environmental appraisal, if any, and the benefit cost statement, if any, and the engineer shall forthwith prepare and file such a preliminary report with the council.

Section 10(2) – Consideration of report

Upon the filing of the preliminary report, the council of the initiating municipality shall cause the clerk to send the prescribed persons a copy of the preliminary report and a notice of the date of the council meeting at which the preliminary report will be considered. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 5 (1).

Section 10(3) – Withdrawal from and additions to petition

At the meeting referred to in subsection (2), the council shall consider the preliminary report and shall give to any person who signed the petition an opportunity to withdraw from it by filing a signed withdrawal with the clerk, and to any person present who owns land in the area requiring drainage and has not signed the petition an opportunity to do so. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 10 (3); 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (6).

Section 10(4) – Cost of petition and preliminary report

If at the end of the meeting the petition does not contain a sufficient number of names to comply with section 4, the original petitioners are chargeable in equal shares with and liable to the municipality for the expenses incurred by the municipality in connection with the petition and preliminary report, excluding the amount of any grants and the costs of any environmental appraisal or benefit cost statement, and the sum with which each of such petitioners is chargeable shall be entered upon the collector's roll for the municipality against the land of the person liable and shall be collected in the same manner as real property taxes.

Section 10(5) – Instruction to engineer

If at the end of the meeting, the petition contains a sufficient number of names to comply with section 4, the council may instruct the engineer to proceed with the preparation of a report.

Section 10(6) – Appeal to Tribunal

Where the council of the initiating municipality fails to instruct the engineer to proceed with the preparation of a report, any petitioner may appeal to the Tribunal or, where lands used for agricultural purposes are included in the area to be drained, the Minister may refer the matter to the Tribunal and the Tribunal may direct the council to take such action as the council is authorized to take under this Act and as the Tribunal considers proper. R.S.O. 1990, c. D17, s. 10 (6); 2006, c. 19, Sched. A, s. 6 (3).

Section 10(7) – Idem

Where any party mentioned in subsection (2) is dissatisfied with the environmental appraisal, an appeal lies to the Tribunal. R.S.O. 1990, c. D17, s. 10 (7); 2006, c. 19, Sched. A, s. 6 (1); 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 5 (2).

Section 10(8) – Referral to Tribunal

The following persons may refer the environmental appraisal to the Tribunal:

1. If lands used for agricultural purposes are included in the area to be drained, the Minister.
2. In any other case, the prescribed persons. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 5 (3).

Section 10(9) – Powers of Tribunal

An appeal under subsection (7) or a reference under subsection (8) shall be made within forty days after the meeting referred to in subsection (2), and the Tribunal may confirm the environmental appraisal or direct that it be reconsidered in such respects as the Tribunal considers proper. R.S.O. 1990, c. D17, s. 10 (9); 2006, c. 19, Sched. A, s. 6 (1).

Section 25(1) – Engineer may assess a block, etc.

The council of the local municipality may direct the engineer to assess as a block, a built-up area designated by the council, and the sum assessed therefor may be levied against all the ratable properties in the designated area proportionately on the basis of the assessed value of the land and buildings.

Section 25(2) – Assessments to be charged against public roads

Where the engineer makes a block assessment under subsection (1), the engineer shall designate the proportion of the assessment to be charged against the public roads in the designated area.

Section 26 – Increased cost, how borne

In addition to all other sums lawfully assessed against the property of a public utility or road authority under this Act, and despite the fact that the public utility or road authority is not otherwise assessable under this Act, the public utility or road authority shall be assessed for and shall pay all the increase of cost of such drainage works caused by the existence of the works of the public utility or road authority.

Section 41(1) – Notice of drainage works

Upon the filing of the engineer's report, the council of the initiating municipality, if it intends to proceed with the drainage works, shall, within thirty days of the filing of the report, cause the clerk of the initiating municipality to send a copy of the report and a notice stating,

- 1) the date of the filing of the report;
- 2) the name or other designation of the drainage works; and

- 3) the date of the council meeting at which the report will be considered, to;
 - a) the owners, in the initiating municipality, as shown by the last revised assessment roll to be the owners of lands and roads assessed for the drainage works or for which compensation or other allowances have been provided in the report;
 - b) the clerk of every other local municipality in which any land or road that is assessed for the drainage works or for which compensation or other allowances have been provided in the report is situate;
 - c) the secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority that has jurisdiction over any land affected by the report;
 - d) any railway company, public utility or road authority affected by the report, other than by way of assessment;
 - e) the Minister of Natural Resources where land under his or her jurisdiction may be affected by the report; and
 - f) the Director.

Section 41(3) – Copy of report not required

Despite subsections (1) and (2), where a block assessment is made, the notice to the owners of the lands so assessed need not be accompanied by a copy of the report.

Section 41(3.1) – Same

Despite subsections (1) and (2), the council of a local municipality is not required to send a copy of the report to owners of lands and roads assessed for a sum of less than \$100.

Section 42 – Consideration of report

The council of the initiating municipality at the meeting mentioned in section 41 shall consider the report, and, where the drainage works is requested on petition, shall give an opportunity to any person who has signed the petition to withdraw from it by filing a signed withdrawal with the clerk and shall also give those present owning lands within the area requiring drainage who have not signed the petition an opportunity to do so, and should any of the lands or roads owned by the municipality within the area requiring drainage as described in the petition be assessed, the council may by resolution authorize the head of the municipality to sign the petition for the municipality, and such signature counts as that of one person in favour of the petition.

Section 65(1) – Subsequent subdivision of land

If, after the final revision of an engineer's assessment of land for a drainage works, the land is divided by a change in ownership of any part, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to apportion the assessment among the parts into which the land was divided, taking into account the part of the land affected by the drainage works.

Section 65(2) – Agreement on share of assessment

If the owners of the subdivided land mutually agree on the share of the drainage assessment that each should pay, they may enter into a written agreement and file it with the clerk of the local municipality and, if the agreement is approved by the council by resolution, no engineer need be instructed under subsection (1).

Section 76(1) - Varying original assessments for maintenance

The Council of any local municipality liable for contribution to a drainage works in connection with which conditions have changed or circumstances have arisen such as to justify a variation of the assessment for maintenance and repair of the drainage works may make an application to the Tribunal, of which notice has been given to the head of every other municipality affected by the drainage works, for permission to procure a report of an engineer to vary the assessment, and, in the event of such permission being given, such council may appoint an engineer for such purpose and may adopt the report but, if all the lands and roads assessed or intended to be assessed lie within the limits of one local municipality, the council of that municipality may procure and adopt such report without such permission.

Section 76(2) – Proceedings on report of engineer

The proceedings upon such report, excepting appeals, shall be the same, as nearly as may be, as upon the report for construction of the drainage works.

Section 76(3) – Appeal from report of engineer

Any council served with a copy of such report may, within 45 days of such service, appeal to the Tribunal from the finding of the engineer as to the portion of the cost of the drainage works for which the municipality is liable.

Section 76(4) – Appeal from assessment

Any owner of land assessed for maintenance or repair may appeal from the assessment in the report on the grounds and in the manner provided by Section 52 in the case of the construction of the drainage works.

Section 76(5) – Basis of future assessments

An assessment determined under this section shall thereafter, until it is further varied, form the basis of any assessment for maintenance or repair of the drainage works affected thereby.

Section 78(1) – Improving, upon examination and report of engineer

If a drainage works has been constructed under a by-law passed under this Act or any predecessor of this Act, and the council of the municipality that is responsible for maintaining and repairing the drainage works considers it appropriate to undertake one or more of the major improvement projects listed in subsection (1.1) for the better use, maintenance or repair of the drainage works or of lands or roads, the municipality may undertake and complete the project in accordance with the report of an engineer appointed by it and without the petition required by section 4. 2010, c.16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (27); 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 9 (1).

Section 78(1.1) – Projects

The projects referred to in subsections (1) are:

- 1) 1. Changing the course of the drainage works.
- 2) 2. Making a new outlet for the whole or any part of the drainage works.
- 3) 3. Constructing a tile drain under the bed of the whole or any part of the drainage works.
- 4) 4. Constructing, reconstructing or extending embankments, walls, dykes, dams, reservoirs, bridges, pumping stations or other protective works in connection with the drainage works.
- 5) 5. Extending the drainage works to an outlet.
- 6) 5.1 Improving or altering the drainage works if the drainage works is located on more than one property.
- 7) 6. Covering all or part of the drainage works.
- 8) 7. Consolidating two or more drainage works.
- 9) 8. Any other activity to improve the drainage works, other than an activity prescribed by the Minister as a minor improvement. 2010, c. 16, Sched. 1, s. 2 (27); 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 9 (2-4).

Section 78(2) – Notice to conservation authority

2) An engineer shall not be appointed under subsection (1) until 30 days after a notice has been sent to the following persons advising them of the municipality's intent to undertake the major improvement project:

1. The secretary-treasurer of each conservation authority that has jurisdiction over any lands that would be affected by the project.
2. The prescribed persons. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 9 (5).

Section 78(3) – Powers and duties of engineer

(3) The engineer has all the powers and shall perform all the duties of an engineer appointed with respect to the construction of a drainage works under this Act. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 78 (3).

Section 78(4) – Proceedings

(4) All proceedings, including appeals, under this section shall be the same as on a report for the construction of a drainage works. R.S.O. 1990, c. D.17, s. 78(4).

Minor improvements to drainage works

(5) Despite subsections (2) to (4), the Minister may prescribe the process for approving minor improvements to a drainage works mentioned in paragraph 8 of subsection (1.1). 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 9 (6).

AMENDMENTS TO ENGINEER'S REPORT

84.1 (1) This section applies with respect to engineer's reports that are prepared for

the purpose of a petition under section 4 or for the purpose of section 78 and that are adopted by a municipal by-law. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 10.

Approval process

(2) The Minister may, by regulation, set out the process by which the engineer's report may be amended and the process by which those amendments are to be approved. 2020, c. 18, Sched. 4, s. 10.

Section Amendments with date in force (28/09/2021)