

## 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 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 48(1) – Appeal to Tribunal**

Any owner of land or any public utility affected by a drainage works, if dissatisfied with the report of the engineer on the ground that,

- (a) The benefits to be derived from the drainage works are not commensurate with the estimated cost thereof;
- (b) The drainage works should be modified on grounds to be stated;
- (c) The compensation or allowances provided by the engineer are inadequate or excessive;
- (d) The engineer has reported that the drainage works is not required, or is impractical, or cannot be constructed, may appeal to the Tribunal, and in every case a notice of appeal shall be served within 40 days after the sending of the notices under Section 40 or subsection 46(2), as the case may be.

**Section 54(1) – Appeal to Tribunal**

Any party to an appeal before the court of revision may appeal to the Tribunal by giving notice addressed to the clerk of the Tribunal, given to the clerk of the initiating municipality, from the decision of the court of revision or from its omission, neglect or refusal to hear or decide an appeal within twenty-one days of the pronouncement of the decision of the court of revision or of any matter evidencing such omission, neglect or refusal.

**Section 57 – Referral back to engineer**

The council of the initiating municipality, at any time before passing the by-law, if it appears that there are or may be errors in the report of the engineer or that for any other reason the report should be reconsidered, may refer the report back to the engineer for reconsideration, and the engineer shall thereupon reconsider the report and shall further report to the council, which report has the same effect and shall be dealt with in the same manner and the proceedings thereon shall be the same as upon the original report.

**Section 61(1) – Imposition of special assessment**

The council of each local municipality that is required to raise the whole or any part of the cost of the drainage works shall by by-law impose upon the land assessed for the drainage works the assessment with which it is chargeable, and the amount so imposed is payable in such instalments as the council may prescribe.

**Section 61(2) – Commutation of special assessment**

The council of any local municipality may provide that persons whose lands are assessed may commute for a payment in cash the assessments imposed thereon and may prescribe the terms and conditions thereof.

**Section 61(3) – Assessments of \$50 or less**

Where the assessment against any parcel of land is \$50 or less, the council of the local municipality may that the assessment shall be paid out of the general funds of the municipality or that the assessment shall be paid in the first year in which the assessment is imposed upon the land assessed.

**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 65(3) – Subsequent connection to drainage works, etc.**

If an owner of land that is not assessed for a drainage works subsequently connects the land with the drainage works for the purpose of drainage, or if the nature or extent of the use of a drainage works by land assessed for the drainage works is subsequently altered, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to inspect the land and assess it for a just proportion of the drainage works, taking into account any compensation paid to the owner of the land in respect of the drainage works.

**Section 65(4) – Subsequent disconnection from drainage works**

If an owner of land that is assessed for a drainage works subsequently disconnects the land from the drainage works, the clerk of the local municipality in which the land is situate shall instruct an engineer in writing to inspect the land and determine the amount by which the assessment of the land should change.

**Section 65(5) – Restriction on connection or disconnection**

No person shall connect to or disconnect from drainage works without the approval of the council of the municipality.

**Section 65(6) – Notice of instructions**

The clerk of the local municipality shall send a copy of the instructions mentioned in subsection (1), (3) or (4) to the owners of the affected lands as soon as reasonably possible.

**Section 65(7) – Engineer’s assessment**

An engineer who prepares an assessment pursuant to instructions received under subsection (1), (3) or (4) shall file the assessment with the clerk of the local municipality.

**Section 65(8) – Notice of assessment**

The clerk of the local municipality shall attach the engineer’s assessment to the original assessment and send a copy of both to the owners of the affected lands.

**Section 65(9) – Assessment binding**

Subject to subsection (11), the engineer’s assessment is binding on the assessed land.

**Section 65(10) – Costs**

The costs of the assessment, including the fees of the engineer, shall be paid by the owners of the lands in the proportion fixed by the engineer or, on appeal, by the Tribunal, and subsection 61(4) applies to these costs.

**Section 65(11) – Appeal of assessment**

If the engineer’s assessment is for an amount greater than \$500, the owner of the land may appeal to the Tribunal within 40 days after the date the clerk sends a copy of the assessment to the owner.

**Section 65(12) – Use of amount collected**

Any amount collected under subsection (3) shall be credited to the account of the drainage works and shall be used only for the improvement, maintenance or repair of the whole or any part of the drainage works.

**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)