



## **STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

---

### **Repaid Productivity Improvement Loans 2018**

#### **Recommendation of the Committee**

That the information be received.

#### **History**

At the March 11, 2019 Standing Policy Committee on Finance meeting, a report of the Chief Financial Officer dated March 11, 2019 was considered.

Your Committee requested additional information regarding the impact of the central irrigation control monitoring implementation and communication regarding the efficiencies. The Administration is providing the further information requested, as follows:

“The loan was repaid one year sooner than required due to the amount of savings realized from the installation of the system.

The addition of central irrigation control has improved the efficiency of scheduling water requirements for over 275 irrigation systems in the field. Prior to the installation of the system, visits to each local system were required if schedule adjustments were made, resulting in a very inefficient resource intensive process, often resulting in unnecessary water being applied to City landscapes. Staffing resources that once provided these localized schedule adjustment functions have since been reallocated to better serve the preventative maintenance requirements (maintaining system delivery efficiencies) of an increasing amount of irrigation infrastructure.

The system is able to communicate with five weather stations spread throughout Saskatoon to more accurately identify landscape water requirements. This information is used to accurately identify and communicate system shutdowns, as well as periods of reduced application due to environmental conditions. The system provides for effective and efficient watering schedules, which lead to an approximate 2.5% decrease on average in the amount of potable water used to maintain parks. This is significant given that there was approximately 11% less rainfall (Vic Rempel weather station), and approximately 12 hectares of additional irrigated park areas that were added to maintenance inventories in 2018.



## **STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The cost savings and benefits from the efficiencies and reduced water consumption in 2018 as a result of the project will be communicated in the 2018 Saskatoon Strides: Savings, Service & Sustainability Report.”

### **Attachment**

March 11, 2019 report of the Chief Financial Officer