



## Bearspaw South Feeder Main Report

There is a lot of misinformation being perpetrated online and in the media regarding the reviews of the Bearspaw South Main Feeder line.

For clarity, The Independent Review was first discussed on June 13, 2024. Please refer to the [Mayor Gondek update on critical water main break June 13th, 2024](#) at the 5-minute mark.

City Council accepted the CAO's Report to the Infrastructure and Planning Committee on July 3, 2024, which directed that the independent review (currently under discussion) be initiated and that a final report, including findings and recommendations be delivered by October 31, 2024.

### [Bearspaw South Feeder Main Break - Independent Review](#)

The initial advisory group did not select a Chair until December 2024, and it then took until May 2025 for the Chair to appoint the review panel. The panel ultimately presented its review in January 2026, wanting approval of all recommendations with less than 24 hours' notice and without public engagement. This does not reflect good governance, or effectiveness from the panel.

Additionally, Council either directed and/or received three other significantly more detailed reviews in 2024/2025, following the initial water main break. All of these were used and referenced in the current report. This panel failed to acknowledge this, contributing to the media chaos and spread of misinformation.

- 1) As Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee in 2024, we commissioned EY (Ernst & Young) to conduct an arms-length report to review our infrastructure. This was requested in October 2024 and completed in May 2025:

**October 17, 2024:** [Audit Committee Infrastructure Review Working Group Update](#)

**May 6, 2025:** [City of Calgary Infrastructure Review Final EY Report](#)

- 2) APEGA (the official regulatory body for the engineering and geoscience professions in Alberta) completed a practice review on The City of Calgary after the critical rupture of the Bearspaw South water main in June 2024. The review was initiated on July 22, 2024, and the final report was delivered to the City of Calgary on May 7, 2025:

**May 7, 2025:** [APEGA Concludes Practice Review on City of Calgary Following 2024 Critical Water Main Rupture](#)

- 3) The City completed a third-party review by Associated Engineering which was completed in November 2024:

**November 2024:** [Forensic Investigation into the Bearspaw South Feedermain Rupture](#)

[Pipe Investigation Undertaken by Associated Engineering and Pure Technologies](#)

Why did it take this fourth review 18 months to complete essentially a summary of the preceding reports – and with a budget of up to \$2 million for the equivalent of an AI summary? This feels absurd.

The City, based on the November 2024 report and subsequent Council direction, are proceeding with all recommended emergency actions presented in the January 2026 report. The City did not wait for this report; work had begun immediately in Q3 2024, and are 12 months ahead of the recommendations presented in January 2026. Also, this did not require a new Council vote.

[Bearspaw South Feeder Main Improvements Project](#)

[North Calgary Water Servicing Project](#)

The only new information presented was a recommendation to carve out the water and sewer assets of The City into a separate corporation, and to remove all elected official oversight. Yet the report cited multiple governance structures, all with elected officials as a comparable. Including the Metro Vancouver Board consisting of 41 elected representatives. Under this proposal, the revenues and

assets would transfer to the new entity, while the liabilities and overhead would remain with The City. Notably, none of the three previous reports had ever suggested this approach.

During a crisis, a board should not say yes to any proposal without completing due diligence. The core principles of governance still apply, and any lack of due diligence opens the organization to additional risks.

Op-eds and running the media circuit to force the Mayor and Council's hand to say yes and skip our responsibility to complete due diligence and engage Calgarians is unacceptable. Calgarians should be wary of any independent panel that chooses to run a media campaign after misrepresenting the work that is currently happening and the structures in place to Calgarians.

It is also important to note that many of the Council members promoting this approach in the media have only been in office for two months. They pressured the panel to report back three weeks early, and fast track the writing of this report, contributing to further governance breakdown.

This Council was elected to engage Calgarians more effectively. Passing major changes to The City and essential services without proper due diligence and public engagement is the opposite of what they said they would do and counter to what the majority of Calgarians voted for.



**Jennifer Wyness**

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