

TOWN OF WATSON LAKE
BYLAW 2026-05

A BYLAW TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX GRANTS TO SENIOR RESIDENT
HOME OWNERS IN THE TOWN OF WATSON LAKE

WHEREAS section 245 of the *Municipal Act* provides that Council may by bylaw provide grants, including grants for property taxes or municipal service charges, to any person, institution, association, group, government, or body of any kind;

WHEREAS Council have deemed it beneficial to provide a grant to qualifying senior citizens who own residential properties within the Town of Watson Lake;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Municipality of the Town of Watson Lake, in open meeting duly assembled, HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1.0 SHORT TITLE

This Bylaw shall be cited as the “Senior Home Owners Grant Bylaw”

2.0 DEFINITIONS

“Property Owner” means the owner as registered on Certificate of Title for the property.

“Qualified Home Owner” means an eligible home owner under the *Home Owners Grant Act*.

“Residential Dwelling” means a dwelling located on a residentially zoned property as outlined in the Town of Watson Lake Zoning Bylaw.

“Senior” means a person who is 65 years of age or older on or before January 1 of the calendar year for which taxes are being levied.

“Surviving Spouse” means a person who was legally married or a common-law spouse as defined in the *Family Property and Support Act* to a deceased.

3.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this bylaw is to provide a grant to any senior citizen who owns a residential dwelling within the Town of Watson Lake and occupies the dwelling as a private residence for a minimum of one hundred and eighty-four (184) days immediately preceding the date of issue of a property tax notice.

4.0 APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

4.01 A qualified home owner may make application for the grant on a form prescribed by the Town provided:

- i. they are the registered property owner for which the grant is being applied;

- ii. they are 65 years of age or older in the calendar year for which the property taxes are being levied;
- iii. they are a qualified applicant under section 1(2) of the *Home Owners Grant Act*;
- iv. all property taxes have been paid in full for the property for which the grant is being applied;
- v. the applicant has lived in the dwelling as a private residence for the minimum amount of time required;
- vi. the grant application is received by the Town no later than February 15 of the following calendar year.

5.0 GRANTS

- 5.01 The Town shall provide a grant not exceeding \$600.00 per residential dwelling.
- 5.02 A senior home owner grant provided by this Bylaw shall apply to net current real property taxes only, levied against the qualified senior home owner's residence property.
- 5.03 No senior home owner grant shall be made for tax penalties, interest, or tax arrears.
- 5.04 No person is eligible for more than one grant in any tax year.

6.0 SURVIVING SPOUSE

- 6.01 A qualified surviving spouse shall receive the grant as though they are 65 years of age, if the applicant has not remarried since the death.

7.0 REPEAL

Senior Home Owner Grant Bylaw 90-08 is hereby repealed.

8.0 ENACTMENT

This Bylaw shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect upon final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST TIME this ____ day of _____, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME this ____ day of _____, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME and finally ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026

Lauren Hanchar, Mayor

Tiffany Lund, Municipal Clerk