

**PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
MRC BROME-MISSISQUOI
TOWN OF BROME LAKE**

BY-LAW 2026-11

**BY-LAW ESTABLISHING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE
CONTROL OF INVASIVE OR HARMFUL EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES**

- WHEREAS sections 4 and 90 of the Act respecting municipal powers (RLRQ, c. C-47.1) provide that the Town has the necessary enabling powers to grant any assistance it deems appropriate in environmental matters for the purposes of this by-law, notwithstanding the Act respecting the prohibition of municipal subsidies;
- WHEREAS The Town of Brome Lake wishes to be proactive in protecting its environment and biodiversity;
- WHEREAS invasive or harmful exotic plant species pose a significant threat to natural ecosystems, local biodiversity, the quality of living environments, and the health of citizens;
- WHEREAS the fight against invasive or harmful exotic plant species requires collective and coordinated action;
- WHEREAS The Town wishes to support its residents in controlling and eradicating invasive or harmful exotic plant species on their property;
- WHEREAS the use of geotextiles is a recognized and effective method for controlling invasive or harmful exotic plant species;
- WHEREAS the notice of motion and the presentation of the draft by-law given at the regular Council meeting on May 4, 2026;

THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL ENACTS THE FOLLOWING:

ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE

The preamble forms an integral part of this by-law.

ARTICLE 2 PURPOSE OF THE BY-LAW

The purpose of this by-law is to create an incentive by providing material assistance to Town residents for the control and eradication of invasive or harmful exotic plant species on residential and commercial properties.

ARTICLE 3 APPLICABLE TERRITORY

This by-law applies to the entire territory under the jurisdiction of the Town of Brome Lake.

ARTICLE 4 DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise stated, either expressly or by the context of the provision, the following expressions, terms, and words have, in this by-law, the meaning and application assigned to them in this section.

“Invasive or Harmful Exotic Plant Species (IEPS)”: Non-native plants whose introduction or spread threatens biodiversity, natural ecosystems, or human activities, including, in particular, Japanese knotweed, common reed (phragmite), giant hogweed, poison ivy, buckthorn, and any other species identified by the Town;

“Geotextile”: A permeable synthetic fabric used to control invasive or harmful exotic plant species by blocking light and preventing their growth;

“Owner”: Means any natural or legal person who holds a property right in land or a building;

“Property”: Lot(s) or portion(s) of an individual lot, or a group of contiguous lots or portions of lots whose land belongs to the same owner;

“Town”: Town of Brome Lake

ARTICLE 5 PROGRAM DURATION

The program ceases to be in effect when the annual supply of geotextile is exhausted.

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To this end, the municipal council shall allocate funds for this program within the annual budget. The municipal council may allocate additional funds during the year if it deems it appropriate and necessary to achieve the program's objectives.

The material assistance is calculated for the year corresponding to the date of the application, regardless of the date of payment.

ARTICLE 6 DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

The assistance provided consists of pre-cut sections of geotextile, supplied free of charge by the Town to the property owner who submits a request, in accordance with this by-law.

All applications for assistance must be submitted before the deadline set annually by the Town. Assistance is granted based on the applications received and the quantities of geotextiles available, until supplies are exhausted.

Assistance may be provided to a property owner for each lot they own.

A property owner may receive only one grant per property per calendar year under this program.

ARTICLE 7 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for assistance, the following conditions must be met:

- a) The property owner must not have received financial assistance under this program during the same calendar year for the property specified in the application;
- b) The property must have a confirmed problem with invasive or harmful exotic plant species, as determined by a Town representative during an on-site visit or by submitting a professional's report to the Town;
- c) The property owner must submit a control plan for the invasive or harmful plant species present on their property when applying for assistance;
- d) The property owner must agree to install and maintain the geotextiles in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Town or any professional qualified in IIS control;
- e) The application for assistance must be completed and signed on the form provided for this purpose;
- f) The property owner must allow a follow-up visit by a Town representative after the geotextiles have been installed to verify compliance with installation requirements;

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- g) The property owner must also provide, upon request, any supporting documentation deemed necessary by the Town to validate the information provided at the filing of the application.

ARTICLE 8 FALSE, INACCURATE, OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

If the Town becomes aware of any fact that renders the applicant's application for assistance false, inaccurate, or incomplete, the application shall be canceled. The applicant must return the geotextiles provided or reimburse their value.

ARTICLE 9 APPENDICES

The application form is attached to this by-law as Appendix A and forms an integral part thereof.

ARTICLE 10 ENTRY INTO FORCE

These by-laws shall come into force in accordance with the Act.

Lee Patterson
Mayor

M^e Owen Falquero
Clerk

FOLLOW-UP:

Notice of Motion:	May 4, 2026
Presentation:	May 4, 2026
Adoption of the by-law:	June 1, 2026
Public notice:	June 2, 2026
Publication:	June 2, 2026 (website), June 9, 2026 (Brome County News)
Effective date:	June 9, 2026

APPENDIX A – APPLICATION FORM

Owner Information

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address:

Town : _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Project Information

Project location:

(if different from the address listed above)

Town : _____

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Province: _____ Zip code: _____

Invasive or harmful exotic plant species present:

- ☐ Japanese knotweed
- ☐ Common reed (Phragmites)
- ☐ Giant hogweed
- ☐ Poison ivy
- ☐ Other (specify):

Area to be treated: _____ square meters

Declaration and Consent

I acknowledge that the information provided in this form will be used by the Brome Lake Town for the purposes of verifying eligibility and distributing financial assistance in accordance with By-law No. 2026-XX.

I understand that if I fail to comply with all the conditions, terms, and provisions set forth in By-law No. 2026-XX, the application review process may be delayed or the application may be deemed ineligible. I acknowledge that in the event of a false statement, the Town of Brome Lake may request the return of the geotextiles provided or reimbursement for their value.

I agree to install and maintain the geotextiles in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Town.

I declare that I have read and understood all the conditions, terms, and provisions of By-law No. 2026-11.

I declare that the information provided in this form is true and complete.

Signing: _____ Date: _____