

9.4 Snow and Ice Control Policy

Date: 2006

Updated: 2020

Reason

The effective and efficient provision of snow and ice control operations is necessary to allow the municipality to function under normal winter weather conditions. A policy is necessary to make a clear statement of the intent of municipal snow and ice control operations and to establish a framework for the priorities within which limited resources will be applied.

Policy

The intent of snow and ice control operations is to maintain municipal streets and sidewalks in a safe and passable condition. Snow and ice control services are not intended to eliminate all hazardous conditions on municipal streets or sidewalks at all times. They are intended to assist vehicles which are properly equipped for winter driving and being operated in a manner consistent with good winter driving habits.

It is expected that under normal winter conditions, there will be situations when the immediate demand for snow and ice control services will exceed the available resourced. In order to maximize the benefits of operations, snow and ice control forces shall conduct operations according to the following priorities:

1. FIRST PRIORITY

Main arterial streets, streets in the downtown central business district, major and problem hills.

2. SECOND PRIORITY

All remaining bus routes and all commercial/industrial roads.

3. THIRD PRIORITY

Residential streets and lanes.



Operational Procedures

1. Snow and Ice Control Operations will be undertaken by the District owned or leased equipment supplemented as necessary by equipment from the Private Sector. Private Sector equipment and operations engaged in Snow Control Operations must be reliable and effective.
2. Snow and Ice Control Operations will be available on a 24 hour a day basis, 7 days a week during the winter season.
3. Sanding and or the application of de-icing chemicals shall be undertaken whenever necessary to maintain safe and passable street and sidewalk conditions for pedestrians in winter footwear and properly equipped vehicles.
4. Snow clearing operations on Municipal streets shall be initiated within the following guidelines:
 - 4.1. Major Arterial 4-Lane Streets shall be plowed when snowfall accumulation exceeds approximately 75 mm in depth. The intent is to keep the maximum depth of compact snow to less than 25 mm.
 - 4.2. Downtown Core Streets shall be plowed when the accumulated snowfall exceeds 75 mm in depth. This work will be undertaken primarily at night due to traffic considerations. The intent is to maintain bare pavement where possible.
 - 4.3. All remaining District streets and roads shall be plowed when the accumulated snowfall exceeds 100 mm in depth. The intent is to keep the maximum depth of compacted snow to less than 50 mm.
 - 4.4. Residential lanes shall be plowed at the same time as residential streets. There is no limitation on the depth of compacted snow allowed to build up in lanes. When lanes become impractical to plow they will be temporarily closed.
5. Sidewalks will be plowed in the Downtown Core and along major arterials when accumulated snowfall exceeds 50 mm. The majority of this work will be undertaken on early morning shift to avoid pedestrian traffic. The Downtown Core is defined for purposes of this work as Burrard Avenue – First Street to Victoria Street; First Street – Ryley Avenue to Fraser Avenue; Stewart Street – Bute Avenue to Church Avenue; Bute Avenue – Stewart Street to Victoria Street; Columbia Street – Bute Avenue to Church Avenue; Church Avenue – Railway yard to Columbia Street. Sidewalks in the areas of schools and senior’s group housing will be plowed where possible. Sidewalks in all other areas will be plowed as work schedules permit and snow storage is available. Walkways will not normally be opened.

Sidewalk plowing and sanding/de-icing operations by the District of Vanderhoof shall in no way relieve the property owner/tenant from their responsibility to ensure that the portion of sidewalk adjoining their property is safe for pedestrian traffic.
6. At Residential and Commercial/Industrial Entrances windrows resulting from street plowing will be reduced where practical. The clearing of snow from these sites is the responsibility of the owner and tenant.
7. Fire Hydrant locations will be cleared of accumulated snow following street plowing to maintain Fire Department access. All Hydrants will be marked.
8. All above ground structures on District road right-of-way(s) including utility company plant, kiosks



and cable boxes must be clearly marked by owners to minimize the chance of damage by snow operations.

9. A time schedule will be maintained to regulate and enforce Winter Season On-Street Parking restrictions and to encourage the use of Off-Street Parking. Residents are therefore employed to help keep the roadways clear by not parking on the roadside between 10pm and 6am in order to allow the Snow clearing crews to do their work safely and efficiently. Vehicles failing to comply with the above restrictions will be removed at the vehicle owners cost.
10. At community mail box locations, windrows resulting from street plowing will be reduced where practical. The clearing of snow from these sites is the responsibility of CanadaPost.
11. It is the intent of this procedure that Snow and Ice Control Operations shall be carried out in a manner so as to minimize adverse impact on the Environment.
 - 11.1. The use of Salt and other De-icing Chemicals will be minimized when possible. It is recognized that under certain conditions it is necessary to apply Salt and De-icing Chemicals to Municipal Streets and Sidewalks to maintain safe and passable conditions.
 - 11.2. Snow Dumps shall not be located immediately adjacent to Rivers.
12. Where practical Center Medians on major arterial streets shall not normally be used for snow storage where lawn has been installed and is being maintained or where the stored snow will create a traffic hazard.
13. Snow removal in Municipal Downtown Parking Lots will be carried out by the Public Services Department.
14. Clearing Snow and Sanding Sidewalks around the Municipal Office and Library will be the responsibility of the Public Services Department.
15. Clearing Snow and Sanding Sidewalks around the Arena will be the responsibility of the Arena Manager.
16. The Municipal Office shall receive and process complaints, information and compliments concerning snow operations.
17. A Heavy Snow Declaration with special parking restrictions shall be issued in the event of predicted snowfalls which may exceed 300 mm over 24 hours.
18. The Public will be kept informed of Snow and Ice Control Operations through advertising, public service announcements and timely media releases.
19. Snow placed on Streets, Lanes or Sidewalks or in a manner such as to create a hazard by private individuals or companies will not be permitted. Removal costs for such snow or ice incurred by the District may be charged to the propertyowner/tenant.