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"Scollard, Taryn" <taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca>  
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**Date:** 11/5/2017 4:54:51 PM  
**Subject:** Memo on Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow  
**Attachments:** ENG - Memo to Mayor & Council - Snow Preparedness - November 3 2017.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny outlining the City's snow preparedness in light of the recent ice & snow weather forecasts, and the upcoming snow season. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- As of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The City of Vancouver and surrounding areas experienced the first snowfall of the season
- As part of our ongoing operations, we proactively work with a meteorologist who provides us with regular weather updates specific to the City of Vancouver proper.
- Weather reports predicted icy conditions and a chance of flurries at higher elevations with low likelihood of accumulation of snow in town compared to the rest of the Lower Mainland.
- We had crews scheduled overnight and continued monitoring the situation to adjust the plan as required. Another period of potential ice and snow is predicted for this Saturday. We will have crews in over the weekend to treat arterials.
- Improvements to snow services are underway, including expanded coverage locations, increased salt storage, and updated snow clearance response timelines and level of service.

If you require more information or have any inquiries, please contact Taryn Scollard at 604.873.7789 or [taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca).

Best,  
Sadhu

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## MEMORANDUM

November 03, 2017

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Taryn Scollard, Director of Streets  
Marisa Espinosa, Director of Green Operations

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow

As of last evening, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The City of Vancouver and surrounding areas experienced the first snowfall of the season. In light of this, we would like to provide you with an update on our preparation and operational practices for ice and snow.

As part of our ongoing operations, we proactively work with a meteorologist who provides us with regular weather updates specific to the City of Vancouver proper. This allows us to receive accurate predictions of local conditions and what we can expect in town, compared to Environment Canada's predictions.

Weather reports from Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> predicted icy conditions and a chance of flurries at higher elevations with low likelihood of accumulation of snow in town compared to the rest of the Lower Mainland. We anticipated that in rare circumstances, there could be some slush overnight. Due to the rain yesterday afternoon, we implemented our snow and ice control procedures and used salt overnight for the main arterial streets to prepare for freezing conditions. We would have utilized brine only if the streets had been relatively dry prior to application. We had crews scheduled overnight and continued monitoring the

situation to adjust the plan as required. Another period of potential ice and snow is predicted for this Saturday. We will have crews in over the weekend to treat arterials.

In July 2017, Council approved a budget increase to undertake improvements to our services. Although last year was a once-in-30-year event, we are being proactive about what may come our way this winter, and these improvements are underway. The improvements include expanded coverage locations, increased salt storage, and updated snow clearance response timelines and level of service. We are also adding new equipment to our fleet that is adaptable for use during all seasons. The size of these units plus the attachments will enable the operation to support narrow laneways and bikeways.

We are strongly recommending that people who drive regularly use mud and snow or all weather tires. The City has also updated its own fleet to comply with these recommendations.

### **Operational Improvements for 2017**

#### *Expanded coverage:*

In addition to arterial routes, emergency routes, bridges, school routes, and the 15 most used bike lanes, we will now also clear snow from sidewalks around schools and hospitals, arterial corner ramps, bus stops, and priority laneways required to assist in garbage collection.

#### *Enhanced response capabilities:*

We are in the process of enhancing our response capability. This includes:

- Adding additional traffic cameras in priority snow-response routes and locations;
- Using 3-1-1 case study mapping to identify high priority areas and target response zones;
- Training for more drivers so that the City has more crew members to call on for support;
- Deploying mud and snow or all weather tires to all non-commercial City fleet vehicles (and chains for those with a Gross Vehicle Weight more than 5,000 kgs);
- Expanding the City's fleet to include vehicles adaptable for use in all seasons to allow us to better access some neighbourhood laneways for garbage and green bin collection. Additional equipment will include more dump trucks with 'winter package' equipment enabled for snow and ice, utility vehicles, and sidewalk snow blowers.

#### *Priority routes:*

We will be following a three-tier priority route schedule with mandated time frames for response at each tier:

- Priority 1 - clearance in <12 hours
  - Priority 1 emergency routes
  - Pedestrian paths associated with priority 1 bike lanes
- Priority 2 - clearance in <48 hours
  - School routes, collector streets, priority 2 hills and transit routes
  - Pedestrian paths associated with priority 2 bike lanes
- Priority 3 - clearance in up to 7 days
  - Remaining emergency routes, mini park pathways, arterial sidewalks at bus stops and corner ramps
  - Priority 3 bike lanes and associated pedestrian paths



*Increased salt capacity:*

Updated salt contracts to secure expanded quotas of salt at a lower price, and updates to salt and brine storage capacity, including:

- Brine storage tank capacity increased from 11,000 to 30,000 gallons
- Salt storage facilities upgraded to include loading equipment
- Salt inventory increased from 2,700 to 8,000 tonnes

**Awareness and Public Education**

Additionally, the City is working closely with our partners to raise awareness about safe travel behaviour and preparing for winter. Since early October, we have been supporting the Winter Driving Safety Coalition by sharing their *Shift into Winter* campaign through our social channels and by distributing their information brochures to our libraries and community centres. Media events to share more information on winter travel and snow preparedness include:

- Thursday, November 2nd: Winter Travel and Pedestrian Safety, in collaboration with VPD and ICBC
- Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: Snow Preparedness at the City of Vancouver, annual display of snow equipment at National Yard

In addition, we have been actively sharing our own tips, as well as tools and resources, for safe travel from our partner organizations, including:

- For cycling: #BIKESAFE - <https://www.mobibikes.ca/en/bikesafe>
- For driving: [www.shiftintowinter.ca](http://www.shiftintowinter.ca)
- For walking: <http://www.icbc.com/road-safety/sharing/pedestrian-safety/>

If you require more information or have any inquiries, please contact Taryn Scollard at 604.873.7789 or [taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca](mailto:taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca).



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