

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL" <CMCG@vancouver.ca>
"Dobrovlny, Jerry" <jerry.dobrovlny@vancouver.ca>
"Scollard, Taryn" <taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/19/2017 3:15:06 PM
Subject: Memo - Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow
Attachments: ENG - Memo to Mayor and Council - Snow Preparedness - Dec 19 2017.pdf

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovlny in regards to the City's preparations for cold weather and snow. A short summary of the memos is as follows:

- Current weather reports from Environment Canada predict continued snowfall and cold weather for the Metro Vancouver area. Even with specific information from WeatherNet, the forecast changed abruptly this morning around 9:00am.
- Metro Vancouver is expecting intermittent snowfall throughout the day and icy conditions this evening. Although a major accumulation is unlikely given how early in the season this is, we anticipate that we will continue to see slush and ice overnight.
- Crews will follow our snow and ice control procedures and use salt throughout the day and overnight for the main arterial streets to prepare for freezing. Crews are scheduled overnight and will continue to monitor the situation and adjust the plan as necessary.
- Today, the City hosted a media event at National Yard, and a news release was also issued. Updates via social media, VanConnect, and the City's website are ongoing.

Should you have any questions, please contact Taryn Scollard at 604.873.7789 or taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7627 | Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Twitter: sadhuajohnston



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MEMORANDUM

December 19, 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

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Preparations for Cold Weather and Snow

Winter arrived this morning more severely than forecasted and current weather reports from Environment Canada predict continued snowfall and cold weather for the Metro Vancouver area. 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 regular ongoing operations, we work with a meteorologist (WeatherNet) who provides us regular weather updates specific to Vancouver proper. This allows us to receive accurate predictions of local conditions and what we can expect in town, compared to Environment Canada's more general predictions. However, even with this specific information, the forecast changed abruptly this morning around 9:00am.

We are expecting intermittent snowfall throughout the day and icy conditions this evening. Although a major accumulation is unlikely given how early in the season this is, we anticipate that we will continue to see slush and ice overnight. We are also anticipating flurries and freezing conditions throughout the week. We will follow our snow and ice control procedures and use salt throughout the day and overnight for the main arterial streets to prepare for freezing. We would choose to use brine only if the streets had been relatively dry prior to application. We have crews scheduled overnight and will continue to monitor the situation and adjust the plan as necessary.

To respond to the volume of snow that fell today, we have redeployed staff from both water operations and sewer operations to help with snow removal. We have activated the Departmental Operations Centre (DOC) at National Yard this afternoon to ensure that we are coordinated in our approach.

There is a forecasted break in snow today at which time some of the crews not operating plows will switch to flooding response.

Operational Improvements for 2017

This year, we have added additional locations for snow and ice removal to our plan. As in the past, we will clear 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.

For a full review of the operation improvements being implemented this year, see the Memo to Mayor and Council dated November 2, 2017.

Awareness and Public Education

Throughout the day, we are ensuring the public is aware of both the measures the City is taking to assist in snow and ice removal as well as providing information on how they can be safe and adhere to their own responsibilities for snow removal.

We hosted our annual snow equipment showcase on November 9, 2017. At that event, 14 media outlets including multiple non-English outlets, obtained b-roll footage of our snow equipment. The news release outlining the City's updated plan went out later that afternoon ([read here](#)).

Today, we hosted a media event at 10am at National Yard. We also issued a news release ([read here](#)), and we have been posting information to social media including updates on snow removal, our collaboration with TransLink, information on the Burrard Street bridge closure, and encouragement to sign up for the [Snow Angels](#) program.

In addition to media and social media, we have sent push messages out via VanConnect to refer people to our Facebook page for detailed ongoing updates. We have also sent a push message to VanCollect subscribers in the Red Zone to let them know about potential delays for garbage and recycling pickups. 3-1-1 has also activated the snow message on their phone line.

We will continue to ensure residents are provided with up-to-date information on snow and ice removal measures. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Taryn Scollard at 604.873.7789 or taryn.scollard@vancouver.ca.



Jerry W. Dobrovoly, P. Eng., MBA
General Manager of Engineering Services

(T) 604.873.7331

(E) jerry.dobrovoly@vancouver.ca