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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
CC: "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"
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Date: 11/21/2018 12:29:32 PM
Subject: Snow Prep - public information

Dear Mayor and Council,

Each fall, the City and Park Board invite media to National Yard to get b-roll of equipment used during freezing temperatures and snow removal. That media availability was held this morning, and will be followed up by an Information Bulletin later today that outlines the City's winter weather preparations, and provides information for residents to also prepare for colder weather conditions.

The text of the pending Information Bulletin is attached below.

Thanks,
Paul

City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
November 21, 2018

City responds to flooding, encourages residents to prepare for winter weather

As the seasons shift, the City of Vancouver is preparing for its winter weather response and is encouraging residents to take time to do the same.

"At the City, we operate 24 hours a day. By working with a meteorologist to give us specific weather reports for Vancouver, we are able to staff up when we get notice that the weather is changing," says Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services. "When it snows, our priority is ensuring main arterials and bus routes are kept clear, to keep streets safe for all users. We are also extremely grateful to the residents who have recently joined our Adopt a Catch Basin and Snow Angels programs to be part of a quick and timely response when the weather changes."

The City also works closely with Vancouver Park Board to ensure their operations teams are coordinated and supported.

"This year, many of our John Deere mowers will be equipped with snow brushes and salt spreaders so our staff can easily remove snow from sidewalks, paths, the seawall, and parking lots. We're committed to clearing snow and ice in a timely manner with a focus on priority areas such as community centres and destination parks," says Howard Normann, Director of Parks, Vancouver Park Board.

What the City does to prepare for fall and winter weather:

The City works with a meteorologist for tailored Vancouver-specific weather predictions, and in addition to doing maintenance throughout the year, keeps staff on hand 24 hours a day to respond to weather incidents.

- Rain:** Throughout the fall season, the City sweeps and clears leaves from streets and provides additional leaf pick-up days to help clear away and then compost fallen leaves. Prior to heavy rain, the City proactively clears catch basins known to be prone to flooding and notifies Adopt a Catch Basin volunteers to encourage them to clear their catch basins. Residents can use the VanConnect App to report flooding and any other street maintenance issues. Learn more at www.vancouver.ca/leaves.
- Snow:** The City has a comprehensive snow response plan built into its operational procedures. When snow or freezing temperatures are predicted, the City ensures that arterial streets are

salted, brined, or plowed depending on the conditions. In 2017, the City also expanded coverage locations, increased salt availability, and developed a three-tiered service response time system. The City also added new vehicles to the fleet that are adaptable for use in all seasons. The vehicles enable crews to support garbage and green bin collection during a snow event. Learn more at www.vancouver.ca/snow.

What residents can do to prepare for winter:

- **Prepare your snow gear early:** Make sure you have shovels, snow boots, winter tires, and salt before the temperature drops.
- **Get winter tires:** If you plan to drive on snow days during the winter, be sure you install tires with the three-peaked mountain and snowflake symbol OR the mud and snow symbol, with at least 3.5 mm tread. The Province of BC requires these tires on provincial highways during the season.
- **Move your car:** City crews plow major roads and bus routes. By moving your car to a side street or garage when snow is predicted or after it snows, City crews can better clear arterials for all users.
- **Avoid driving if you can:** Check transit schedules at translink.ca for commuting alternatives.
- **Know your obligations:**
 - Raking or blowing leaves into the street is a finable offence up to \$10,000. Learn more about how the City supports leaf cleaning at www.vancouver.ca/leaves
 - All property owners and occupants must clear snow and ice from sidewalks around their property by 10 am the morning after a snowfall, seven days a week. If you are unable to clear your walk and have no other alternatives, you are encouraged to sign up for the Snow Angel Program to be connected to a volunteer. Failure to remove snow and ice create a danger to pedestrians and may result in fines.

Programs that support you in getting involved and helping your neighbours:

The City supports a number of volunteer opportunities that help to facilitate residents in making our city a great, vibrant, and connected community. These low-barrier programs are popular with families and residents looking for flexible opportunities that connect them with neighbours and their neighbourhood.

- *Adopt a Catch Basin Program:* What do “Grate Expectations”, “Live Inlet Die” and “Kevin Basin” have in common? They are all the names of catch basins adopted throughout Vancouver. With over 45,000 catch basins in the city, residents help clearing leaves or snow from catch basins in advance of rain to dramatically reduce neighbourhood flooding. Sign up at: vancouver.ca/catchbasin.
- *Snow Angel Program:* Snow and ice on the sidewalk can be a barrier for many people, particularly low-income seniors and people with mobility challenges who can't afford to hire help. The Snow Angel program helps match volunteers with seniors and people with mobility issues to help clear their sidewalks following a snowfall event. Sign up at: vancouver.ca/snowangels.

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