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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 12/15/2022 3:59:10 PM
Subject: [Forthcoming Information Bulletin: City Preparing for Snow \(December 16, 2022\)](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Vancouver can once again expect to see freezing temperatures and snow accumulations for next week, beginning as early as Sunday. We will be issuing an information bulletin tomorrow providing safety information to the public, outlining our response plans, as well as noting the Warming Centres and Extreme Weather Response Shelters available to those sleeping outside.

This information will be shared on our social media channels and we invite you to amplify as you see fit. Social messaging will reinforce the obligation to clear snow from sidewalks as a key measure to promote safety and accessibility of routes, in addition to the Snow Angel program.

Our street operations staff will be available for media interviews, as appropriate.

Best,

Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver Information bulletin December 16, 2022

Expect snow and freezing temperatures next week: City shares tips to stay safe

The Vancouver forecast is calling for several days of snow and freezing temperatures starting as early as this Sunday, December 18. The City is encouraging residents to only undertake essential travel and to take safety precautions if they need to drive. For people experiencing homelessness, the City will be opening additional indoor spaces.

We [prioritize snow and ice treatment](#) with a focus on:

- major roads and bus routes;
- bridges and bridge sidewalks;
- main streets adjacent to major hospitals;
- the four major pedestrian pathways - Arbutus Greenway, Central Valley Greenway, False Creek Seawall, and Coal Harbour Seawall; and
- the 16 most-used bike routes.

Residential side streets are not included as part of our treatment plans, with the exception of priority hills and access routes to hospitals and schools.

There are many things residents can do to help keep our city safe:

- Remove snow before it hardens to ice. Vancouver property owners and tenants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the full width of sidewalks that surround their property by 10 am on the morning following a snowfall, as a key measure to promote safety and accessibility of routes. This bylaw is in effect seven days a week and failure to do so can result in fines.
- On snow days, only take essential trips. This helps keep the roads clear for our crews who are out treating snow and ice on the roads. If you need to be on the roads, travel with caution and please give way to, or stay at a safe distance when following a plow, salt or brine truck.
- Equip your vehicle with [the right tires](#) for the conditions.
- [Learn about](#) preparing an emergency kit for your car and what to do if you get stuck
- If your car is parked on a major route, please move it to a side street to make room for plows.
- Check [Translink](#) for transit updates and the Provincial [DriveBC website](#) to plan travel on highways and commuter bridges exiting Vancouver.

If you are unable to clear your walk and have no other alternatives, you are encouraged to [sign up for the Snow Angel Program](#) where volunteers are matched with people with mobility issues to help clear their sidewalks.

Support for people sleeping outside

To ensure that people sleeping outside can come into warm, safe spaces during Vancouver's coldest months, the City and partners are once again activating a variety of spaces to encourage people to come in from the cold. Due to very cold weather and forecasted snow this week, the City of Vancouver anticipates opening a number of warming centres, starting Sunday, December 18 given temperatures dropping further.

Warming Centres are open when the temperature feels like -5°C or below or actual temperature of -4°C as a life-saving measure for people sleeping outside. While they are not set up with beds or mats, hot drinks and snacks are available. The most up-to-date information can be found on the City's social media pages, and at <https://mobile.twitter.com/ewrmetrovan>

Extreme Weather Response Shelters and Warming Centres are in addition to Temporary Winter Shelters, which are open every night between November and March.

Extreme Weather Response Shelters are currently open to provide additional spaces at the following locations:

Directions Youth Services Centre

- 1138 Burrard Street
- 10pm – 7am

Cascades Church

- 3833 Boundary Road
- 9:30pm – 9am

Bud Osborn EWR

- 27 West Hastings Street
- 7pm – 7am

The Salvation Army Belkin House

- 555 Homer Street
- 9pm – 7am

Langara YMCA

- 282 West 49th Avenue
- 9:30pm – 7am

Additionally, Powell Street Getaway Warming Centre at 450 East Hastings Street is currently open at EWR parameters from 9pm – 7:30am

Extreme Weather Response Shelters provide mats to sleep on and are open during extreme rain, wind, snow or when the temperature feels like 0°C or below. Depending on the location, visitors to these warm spaces may bring pets, bikes and carts with them.

The City extends its appreciation to the community organizations who make their spaces available to activate as Warming Centres and Extreme Weather Response Shelters.

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