

Corporation of the City of Elliot Lake

Transportation Services Policy Winter Operations

It is hereby recognized and adopted by resolution of Council that the City of Elliot Lake will declare the winter season to be from October 15 of the current year to April 15 of the following year.

The City of Elliot Lake will administer transportation services with regard to winter operations through the Public Works Department. The fleet utilized for winter operations will be serviced and made ready for use in the event of winter operations no later than October 8 of every year.

Winter Control:

Objective: To reduce the hazards of snow and ice conditions to vehicular and pedestrian traffic, to provide safe and accessible parking areas in the Central Commercial Area and all municipal complexes, and to permit the handling of emergencies by the fire, police and ambulance services.

Inventory: 100 kilometers of roads and laneways
75 kilometers of sidewalks
7 parking lots

Activities:

Patrolling:

Routine patrolling shall be carried out by driving on municipal roadways to check for conditions described under snow accumulation and icy roadways. Patrolling will be conducted as per O. Reg. 239/02 and the frequency of such patrols will be increased as dictated by seasonal conditions. Patrols may be carried out during the night shift as required during winter operations.

Snow Accumulation:

(a) while snow continues to accumulate resources will be deployed to clear the snow as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the

fact that the snow accumulation on main roadways (bus routes) is greater than 6 cm and on secondary roadways is greater than 8 cm.

- (b) after snow accumulation has ended and after becoming aware that the snow accumulation is greater than the depth stated in section (a), resources will be deployed to clear the snow in accordance with the following subsections, and all clearing activity with respect to roadways will be completed within a 12 hour period.
- (c) The snow accumulation must be cleared to a depth less than or equal to the depth set out in section (a).
- (d) The snow accumulation must be cleared from the roadway to within a distance of 0.6m inside the outer edge of the roadway.
- (e) Despite section (d), for a Class 4 or Class 5 road with two lanes, the snow accumulation on the roadway must be cleared to a width of at least 5 meters.
- (f) Sections (a) – (f) do not apply to that portion of the roadway designated for parking. Sections (a) – (f) only apply during the period designated by the municipality as the season when the municipality performs winter road maintenance.

“snow accumulation,” means the natural accumulation of new fallen snow or wind-blown snow that covers more than ½ a lane width of a roadway.

Icy Roadways:

- (a) resources will be deployed to treat icy roadways as soon as practicable after becoming aware that a roadway is icy and operations to treat icy roadways shall be completed within 8 hours of the onset of said operations.
- (b) Section (a) only applies during the period designated by the municipality as the season when the municipality performs winter road maintenance.

Salting- salting operations are performed to achieve the following results.

- To treat areas of the roadway that has been made slippery by snow or ice.
- To form a brine sandwich to prevent the snow or ice from forming a bond with the road surface.

Note: salt should not be applied continually during a snowfall. Salt should be applied when the road surface temperature is -7 degrees Celsius or higher.

Sanding- sanding operations are dictated by the following conditions.

- When snowfall remains heavy after initial salting operations.
- When temperatures fall below -7 degrees Celsius.
- When snow packed conditions prevail.
- When conditions cannot be made safe with the application of salt only.

Snow Removal/ Roads- snow removal activities on cul-de-sacs shall commence as soon as time permits once plowing, sanding and parking lot operations are completed. Snow removal from the roads shall occur when the width of the roadway is reduced to a distance that makes plowing operations unsafe. Snow removal shall be carried out at intersections where visibility is restricted by the snow bank producing a traffic hazard. Snow banks will be removed from streets with sidewalks as the need arises.

Snow Removal/ Parking Lots- snow removal operations shall be carried out when accumulation reaches 6 centimeters and for safety reasons will only be carried out once businesses are closed. Plowing and stockpiling of snow will be conducted from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 am when restricted parking is in effect. Removal of stockpiled snow should be carried out as soon as possible to free up parking areas and to minimize the effects of thawing snow.

Snow Removal/ Drainage- snow removal from ditches will be done each spring as required to prevent damages that may result from spring flooding.

Miscellaneous Snow Removal- snow removal will take place around fire hydrants, bus shelters, school crossing zones and school bus loading zones.

Snow Dumps- snow removed from City streets and parking lots will be hauled to the nearest designated snow dump. Designated snow dumps are Colwill Drive, Scott Road, Senator Place, Fox Drive, Curling Club, Mississauga Avenue, Felz Road, and Washington Crescent. When required, the dumped snow will be pushed to make more dumping space available, using a rental bulldozer and operator.

Sidewalk Clearing- sidewalk plowing and/or blowing activities will commence as soon as snow accumulation has reached 6 centimeters. Sidewalk clearing operations in the Central Commercial Area must be carried out before or after store hours. When circumstances allow, residential sidewalks will be cleaned during the scheduled night shift operations, otherwise daytime clearing of residential sidewalks will occur. Overtime is not normally incurred for this activity.

Sidewalk Sanding- sidewalk sanding operations will commence whenever conditions for pedestrian use are unsafe. Sidewalk sanding may occur during clearing operations or as dictated by conditions of the sidewalk surface. Shift supervisors monitor sidewalk conditions.

Stairs- best efforts will be made to keep all stairs and landings free from snow and ice. Central Commercial Area stairways will have priority over walkway stairs. Overtime is not normally incurred for this activity.

Walkways- walkways will be sanded when conditions for pedestrian traffic are unsafe. This activity will be carried out once winter operations in priority areas have been completed. Overtime is not normally incurred for this activity.