

Mackenzie County

Title	WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE/SNOW PLOWING INDICATOR POLICY	Policy No:	PW004
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Legislation Reference	Municipal Government Act, Section 18 and 532(1)
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Purpose

To set out the standards for winter maintenance of municipal roads.

To set the standards for snow removal of private driveways of rural residents who have purchased a snowplow indicator and have signed the snowplowing agreement.

To set the standards for snow removal of private driveways for rural senior citizens and/or handicapped persons.

This policy rescinds and replaces Policy FIN015 and Policy FIN020.

Policy Statement and Guidelines

The CAO and/or designate is responsible for dispatching winter maintenance equipment in accordance with this policy.

The priority for snowplowing operations shall be:

- 1) Air Ambulance airport runways
- 2) Major emergency routes, and facilities for emergency services
- 3) Arterial roads
- 4) School bus routes (public and private)
- 5) Collector roads/Hamlet streets
- 6) Local roads
- 7) Public sidewalks and walkways
- 8) Winter maintenance of rural private residential driveways
- 9) Other miscellaneous duties

Note: Generally rural residential driveways will be done after local road snowplowing, however, at times, driveways may be plowed in conjunction with local roads to improve efficiencies.

Hamlet Snow Removal:

Generally, plowing of snow should only be undertaken when snow accumulates to a minimum of ten (10) cm of snow.

Rural Standard Areas (Ditches) Includes Hamlet Country Residential – Snow should be plowed into the ditch area, and windrows created on driveways as a result of this operation should be removed using County resources.

Urban Standard Areas (Curb & Gutter)

The following procedures should be used:

1. Snow may be left on the street until the packed snow reaches ten (10) cm, at which time the snow should be windrowed to the middle of the street and hauled away.
2. Snow may be plowed to the non sidewalk side of the street when able and practical to do so, and windrows created on driveways as a result of this operation should be removed using County resources.
3. The removal and hauling of snow from within the Hamlet boundaries to a designated snow dump area should take place at the discretion of the CAO or designate when deemed necessary.

Sanding or ice blading of icy stretches and intersections should be done on an as required basis. The priority should be intersections and curves on roads. Other areas should be done within the available resources as need dictates.

Removal of snow piles – The County may remove snow piles that a ratepayer or business has placed on the County's Right of Way due to safety concerns, a charge shall be applicable as per the Fee Schedule Bylaw.

Rural Snow Removal: (Includes Rural Country Residential)

Arterial road maintenance shall be similar to Provincial Highway maintenance standards.

Arterial roads include:

- La Crete North & South Access
- Highway 88 Connector
- Zama Access Road

Generally, grading of snow should only be undertaken when snow accumulates to a minimum of ten (10) cm of snow.

Sanding or ice blading of icy stretches and intersections should be done on an as required basis. The priority should be intersections and curves on roads. Other areas should be done within the available resources as need dictates.

Excess snow should generally be stockpiled alongside the road in the road allowance and on other available public property. Snow will not be hauled to other stockpile locations unless public safety is at risk, e.g. when visibility at an intersection is obstructed.

Winging and other maintenance operations, such as ice blading driveways, should have a lesser priority unless they can be combined with the first.

Negotiations for stockpiling snow on private property should be carried out only where it is the lowest cost alternative.

Municipal grader operators will take all reasonable measures to minimize the size of the snow berm left on private driveways.

Culverts identified as problematic may be steamed in early spring in an attempt to prevent flooding.

Rural Private Residential Maintenance Operations/Sale of Rural Snowplowing Indicators

- Mackenzie County provides for snowplowing of rural residential driveways through the sale of snowplowing Indicators.
- The snowplowing Indicator is to be purchased at a fee established by Council and set out in the Fee Schedule By-law.
- An Indicator is intended to provide resident with ONE pass in and ONE pass out (most direct route to the residence) when present. When the Indicator is present the snowplowing will be to a maximum of ¼ mile (400 meters) or 15 minutes of snow clearing, whichever is less.
- The cost of the snowplowing service each time the Indicator is present is a fee set out in the Fee Schedule Bylaw, and will be invoiced monthly to the owner of the Indicator.
- Any rural resident residing within the boundaries of Mackenzie County shall be allowed to purchase a snowplowing Indicator if the resident enters into a standard Snowplowing Agreement (Appendix A) releasing Mackenzie County, its employees, and agents, from any liability arising from the snowplow operation.

- No service shall be provided prior to the purchase of a snowplowing Indicator.
- The snowplowing Indicator shall be placed visibly at the end of the driveway to signify the residents request for snow clearing.
- Ice blading shall be done to a maximum of 50 feet onto the driveway in rural area, owner must call County office to request this service specifically.

Rural Snowplowing Indicators for Senior Citizens and/or Handicapped Persons

Mackenzie County recognizes that the snowplowing of rural residential accesses may be cost prohibitive to Senior Citizens and/or Handicapped Persons. Therefore, Mackenzie County will provide qualified rural Senior Citizens and/or Handicapped Persons with snowplowing services of their rural residential driveways at no cost and/or as identified in the Fee Schedule Bylaw. Receiving the senior and/or handicap snowplowing services is subject to entering into the Senior and/or Handicapped Snowplowing Agreement (Appendix B).

In this policy the following definitions apply:

Dependents: “any person eighteen years of age and under and that such age can be documented.”

Handicapped Persons: “any resident who has a severe physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment and such impairment can be verified by a medical doctor.”

Senior Citizen: “any resident who is 65 years of age or older and that such age can be documented.”

Spouse: “means the husband or wife of a married person, or common-law partner.”

1. Rural Senior Citizen and/or handicapped residents may apply annually, through the completion of the Mackenzie County Seniors and/or Handicapped Snowplowing Agreement, subject to the following qualifications:
 - Service is limited to those qualified residents living in rural areas.
 - Service is limited to residences where one resident is by definition a senior citizen and/or a handicapped person.
 - Service is limited to residences where a handicapped dependent requires public transportation services to attend an educational facility.
 - Senior and/or handicapped residents shall provide proof as to their senior and/or handicapped status.

- All services are subject to an inspection in advance.
2. A Senior/Handicapped Indicator is intended to provide residents with ONE pass in and ONE pass out (most direct route to the residence) with the snowplow to a maximum of ¼ mile (400 meters) or 15 minutes of snow clearing, whichever is less.
 3. Any rural Senior Citizen and/or rural Handicapped Person residing within the boundaries of Mackenzie County shall be allowed to obtain a Senior Citizen and/or Handicapped Persons snowplowing Indicator if the resident enters into a Senior Citizen and/or Handicapped Person Snowplowing Agreement (Appendix B) releasing the County of Mackenzie, its employees, and agents, from any liability arising from the snowplow operation.
 4. The snowplowing Indicator shall be placed visibly at the end of the driveway to signify the residents request for snow clearing.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	10-Nov-98	98-341
Amended	23-Nov-05	05-632
Amended	23-Feb-11	11-02-195
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Amended		