

Mackenzie County

Title	WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY	Policy No:	PW004
-------	--------------------------------	------------	-------

Legislation Reference	Municipal Government Act, Section 18 and 532(1)
-----------------------	---

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out the standards for winter maintenance of municipal roads, sidewalks, and private rural residential driveways.

This policy rescinds and replaces Policy FIN015 and Policy FIN020.

Policy Statement and Guidelines

Within the terms of this policy, the travelling public will be provided with regular road maintenance. Rural residents may purchase a Snowplow Indicator Sign to receive snow removal from their driveways as per the conditions of this policy.

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.

Definitions

“CAO” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality or their delegate.

“Arterial roads” means highest traffic volume corridors which deliver traffic from collector roads to provincial highways.

“Collector roads” means a low-to-moderate capacity roads which deliver traffic from local streets to arterial roads.

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

“Hamlet” means areas within hamlet boundaries.

“Rural Standard Areas” means areas where ditches are prominent alongside a road or the edge of any public or private property.

“Urban Standard Areas” means areas where curb and gutter are prominent alongside a road or the edge of any public or private property.

Hamlet Snow Removal

Snowplowing should only be undertaken when snow accumulates to a minimum of ten (10) centimeters.

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

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

Rural Standard Areas (Ditches)

Snow should be plowed into the ditch area. Windrows created on driveways as a result of this operation should be removed using County resources.

Urban Standard Areas (Curb & Gutter)

Snowplowing shall be undertaken when packed snow reaches ten (10) centimeters, at which time the snow should be windrowed to the middle of the street and hauled away to a designated area.

Snow may be plowed to the non sidewalk side of the street when able and practical to do so. Windrows created on driveways as a result of this operation should be removed using County resources.

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.

Snow removal/sweeping from Public Sidewalks and Walkways will occur as necessary and in accordance with the priority for snow removal operations. A fee for Sidewalk snowplowing is established in the Fee Schedule Bylaw.

Rural Snow Removal

Grading of snow should only be undertaken when snow accumulates to a minimum of ten (10) centimeters.

Arterial road maintenance shall be similar to provincial highway maintenance standards.

Arterial roads include:

- La Crete North & South Access, and 94th Ave;
- Highway 88 Connector;
- Zama Access Road; and
- Fort Vermilion River Road West Access, 45th St, and 50th St.

Excess snow should 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.

Negotiations to stockpile snow on private property should be carried out only when it is the lowest cost alternative.

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

Grader operators should take all reasonable measures to minimize the size of snow berms left on private driveways.

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

Rural Residential Maintenance Operations

Rural residents may purchase a Snowplow Flag at a fee as listed in Mackenzie County's Fee Schedule Bylaw to receive snow removal from their driveways. A Rural Residential Snowplowing Application (Schedule "A") must be completed prior to purchase, releasing Mackenzie County, its employees, and agents, from any liability arising from the snowplow operation

Rural residents having purchased a Snowplow Flags must place the Flag visibly at the end of the driveway to signify a request for snowplowing. The Snowplow Flag provides residents with ONE pass in and ONE pass out (most direct route to the residence) Snow clearing will operate to a maximum of one quarter (¼) of a mile (400 meters) or for 15 minutes, whichever is less. Snowplowing will not be completed if the Flag is not visibly placed at the end of the driveway. Flags will be removed by the grader operator when plowing the driveway.

No service shall be provided prior to the purchase of a Snowplow Flag and/or the signing of a new agreement annually and upon payment for the service as established in the Fee Schedule Bylaw.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	10-Nov-98	98-341
Amended	23-Nov-05	05-632
Amended	23-Feb-11	11-02-195
Amended	12-Dec-11	11-12-975
Amended	11-Dec-12	12-12-836
Amended	26-Aug-15	15-08-576
Amended	2016-03-23	16-03-215
Amended	2017-01-11	17-01-037
Amended	2019-02-12	19-02-065
Amended	2021-12-07	21-12-827