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# City Staff Report

**Report Date:** Nov 20, 2019**Meeting Date:** Nov 26, 2019**To:** City Manager**From:** Director of Corporate and Financial Services**Subject:** Sidewalk snow clearing

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update language in the City's street and traffic bylaw regarding snow removal on sidewalks that the City assists in snow removal. The intent is not to change the level of service provided by the City at all but to ensure that property owners realize that they are also responsible for snow removal for sidewalks adjacent to their property, as the City cannot cover all areas quickly, especially during heavy snowfalls and prolonged ice events.

The City's snow budget is climbing each year as snow and ice events become more frequent. A more collaborative approach is required to keep snow costs under control. The City will be reviewing during the operating budget whether more funds need to be added to driveway clearing to deal with ice chunks after street cleanups.

## Summary

Currently property owners within areas designated on Schedule A (downtown) of the street and traffic bylaw are required to clear their snow by 10 am each morning. All other areas of the City are not mentioned in the current bylaw. The City does send out crews to clear all these sidewalks but cannot always be there as quickly as needed and it should be recognized that the property owners also have responsibility to clear sidewalks.

The language added to the bylaw is as follows:

- The owner or occupier of any real property not designated in "Schedule A" shall remove snow and ice from all sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such real property within 24 hours following a snow or ice event. The City will assist with snow removal on sidewalks not designated in "Schedule A" as time allows during a snow event.

The City does its best to reach all sidewalks within 24 hours of a snow event but cannot always make that time line.

Currently Prince George gives all property owners 4 days to clear their sidewalks and Williams Lake gives 24 hours. Both cities clear a portion of their residential sidewalks.

## Recommendation

THAT Council approve City of Quesnel Comprehensive Street, Traffic and Parking Amendment Bylaw No. 1883 of 2019 in the bylaw section of the agenda.

## Statutory Requirements

N/A

## Council Policy

Snow removal is covered under the Street and Traffic Bylaw.



## **Strategic Objective**

Community Safety

## **Financial Implications**

There is no proposed change to service so no financial implications.

## **Background**

As per Prince George's "City of Prince George Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 8425, 2012".

8 (2) Every Owner or Occupier shall remove all accumulations of snow and ice from all footpaths and sidewalks on and adjoining the Land of that Owner or Occupier within 4 days of the snow or ice accumulating.

Prince George clears approximately 189 km's out of the 200 km's of sidewalks in the City.

As per Williams Lake "City of Williams Lake Good Neighbour Bylaw No. 2193, 2014."

7.10.1 Every owner or occupier of any building or premises within the city shall remove from the roofs, gutters projections or cornices, situation upon such buildings or premises, all accumulations of ice, icicles, snow, rubbish or dirt that could slip, slide, fall or be blown upon or across any sidewalk or street.

7.10.2 Every owner or occupier of any building or premises, including any vacant lot, within the City, shall clear the sidewalk of snow and ice adjacent to the property within 24 hours following a snow event.

## **Attachments**

City of Quesnel Comprehensive Street, Traffic and Parking Amendment Bylaw No. 1883 of 2019

## **Concurrence**

Director of Public Works Operations

Director of Development Services