

R.M of McCraney No. 282

Policy for Snow Removal

OBJECTIVE

To define a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner in which the snow removal on the municipal road infrastructure shall be conducted while ensuring the safety of the employees and ratepayers.

POLICY

1. Responsibility:

Each individual Councillor will be the coordinator of snow removal for his/her division and must communicate areas of concern with the Administrator or Foreman/Coordinator.

2. Timing and Safety:

Snow Removal will begin when the snowfall has ended or is expected to end shortly. The operators will not be expected to clear snow until it is safe to do so. If the snow fall ends late evening or during the night, snow clearing will begin the following morning.

While engaged in snow removal, equipment may be fitted with one or more amber/blue and/or blue flashing lights or beacons.

For extreme snow fall events, laid off seasonal employees and/or contractors may be used to assist with snow clearing. While it is acknowledged that voluntary assistance is sometimes provided by rural ratepayers or contractors in the event of a severe storm, ONLY the contractors or individuals that are approved of and contracted by the Rural Municipality of McCraney Council to assist in snow removal efforts will be financially compensated.

3. Procedure:

Snow removal is conducted according to a priority system which typically follows the classification of roads as listed below:

Priority 1 – School Bus Routes

(a bus route map is provided from the school division which is then given to the equipment operators to follow).

Priority 2 – Major Grid Roads

Priority 3 – Other grid roads and haul roads

After the priority roads are completed, any remaining secondary roads (main farm access and gravel roads) will be cleared as needed.

When storms are continuous, or closely follow one another, operations will be repeated or continued on the routes of highest priority until all such roads are completed before moving on to roads of a lesser priority. There **may be** exceptions to the snow removal priority system based upon extenuating emergency situations, please contact the Administrator or your Division Councillor to adjust any priorities.

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4. Custom Snow Removal:

Custom snow removal **will not** be offered outside the boundaries of the municipality. Services **will be** offered within the boundaries of the municipality as stated below:

Residential Lanes and Yard Sites

- Custom snow removal **will** be offered to ratepayers for inhabited residential lanes/driveways.

- Custom snow removal **will not** be offered within the yard site of any ratepayer.

Grain Bin Storage and Seasonal Roads to access Grain Bags/Bins/Bales

- Custom snow removal **will be** offered on seasonal roads upon request to provide access to grain bags/bins/bales.

- Custom snow removal **will not** be offered for access to grain bags/bins/bales located in fields or bin yards due to considerable risk of equipment damage.

Custom snow removal is **low priority** and will be done only after all other roads have been cleared and as time permits. Prior to providing custom snow removal to ratepayers, a Custom Work contract **MUST** be signed. **Custom work rates will apply to any and all requests** and a minimum of 1 hour will be charged for snow removal. The custom work contract which includes the custom rate list is attached as Schedule “A”.

5. Residential Plowing & Private Lanes/Driveways:

Ratepayers are responsible for clearing snow from private lanes/driveways. Snow from private driveways shall not be placed on the municipal road allowance (33’ from the centre on secondary roads and 100’ from the centre on major grids i.e Allan and Davidson Grid), roadways or shoulders. Do not plow snow from driveways onto or across municipal roads, road allowance, or shoulders. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snow removal equipment. Piles of snow increase the chance of drifting onto the roadway. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Anyone found plowing snow or has plowed snow onto the municipal rights-of-way may be liable for the costs for the RM to remedy the damage done and can be fined under *The Highways and Transportation Act, 1997*.

6. Snow Ridging:

The municipality may make arrangements with local ratepayers regarding the RM ridging snow on their property as a measure to prevent the blocking of roads by snow drifts during the winter months.

7. Previous Policy:

This policy hereby nullifies all previous snow removal policies and/or resolutions.