

## Winter Control Update – March 2023

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### Report Summary

This report provides an overview of winter maintenance activities for the 2022/2023 winter control season up to and including the month of March 2023.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy & Emissions Plan.

### Financial Implications

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2023. The estimated result for March 2023 is a deficit of approximately \$525,000 when compared to the 2023 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date result may differ from these estimates as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

### Background

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of March 2023, including financial variances. It is important to note that due to normal lags in receipt of costs related to these activities, final costs for this period may vary from the information reported at this time.

The City of Greater Sudbury's winter maintenance service levels are defined in Council approved winter control service policies as well as guidelines within the Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS), O.Reg. 239-02.

During the month of March, there was one (1) snow event requiring the full deployment of City staff and contractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2023. The estimated result for the period ending March 31, 2023 is a deficit of approximately \$525,000 when compared to the

2023 year-to-date budget. The actual year-to-date results may differ, as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices.

## Weather Statistics

As shown on Table 1, in March there was one (1) snow event which required the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment. As of the end of March 2023 there have been twelve (12) snow events and one (1) freezing rain event requiring the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment in the winter of 2022/2023.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2022/2023 winter season from Environment Canada including the 10-year average (2012-2021) for snowfall. The total snow accumulation in March of 2023 was 57% higher than the 10-year average for the same period. The total snow accumulation for the 2022/2023 winter season is approximately 11% higher than the 10-year average at 3.2 meters or 10.4 feet compared to an average of 2.9 meters or 9.4 feet.

**Table 1 – Weather Statistics (March 2023)**

Month	Snow Accumulation	10 Year Average (cm) (2012-2021)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 10-Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events
June-Sept	-	-	0.0%	0	0
Oct	2.8	6.3	-100.0%	0	0
Nov	17.8	40.6	-56.2%	0	0
Dec	75.6	64.8	16.7%	3	0
Jan	89.5	75.7	18.2%	3	0
Feb	75.7	63	20.2%	5	1
March	55.6	35.4	57.1%	1	0
April					
May					
Totals	317.0	285.8	10.9%	12	1

Note: All weather data taken from Environment Canada website for weather station Sudbury A.

## Winter Control Service Categories

### 1) Roadway Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting

Includes work activities such as plowing, sanding, salting, anti-icing roads and winter stockpile management.

#### Status Update

For the March 2023 reporting period there was one (1) snow event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors with temperatures frequently fluctuating above and below zero. This resulted in approximately 16% less snow plowing/sanding/salting activities than the anticipated levels for March.

#### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

### 2) Snow Removal

Includes work activities such as bus stop clearing, snow removal with loaders, snow dump operation and snowbank removal in the downtown centres.

### Status Update

Due to higher-than-average snow accumulation from December through March, the March 2023 reporting period saw approximately 80% more snow removal activities than the anticipated levels. However, it should be noted that all of these costs are offset by the surplus in winter ditching/spring clean up as the increased snow removal also facilitated drainage reducing the burden on the catchbasin clearing and winter ditching activities.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

#### **3) Winter Sidewalk Maintenance**

Includes work activities such as sidewalk plowing and sanding.

### Status Update

For the March 2023 reporting period there was one (1) snow event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in approximately 46% less winter sidewalk maintenance activities than the anticipated levels for March.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

#### **4) Roadway Snow Plowing with Graders/Loaders/4x4s**

Includes work activities such as snow plowing with graders, 4x4s and loaders, municipal parking lot maintenance and snow fence maintenance.

### Status Update

For the March 2023 reporting period there was one (1) snow event which required the full deployment of City staff and contractors. This resulted in approximately 58% less roadway snow plowing with graders/loaders/4x4s than the anticipated levels for March.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

#### **5) Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up**

Includes work activities such as winter ditch maintenance and spring clean-up with sweepers/flushers on roads and sidewalks.

### Status Update

Due to the higher-than-average snow accumulation from December through March, there was an on-going focus on snow removal in March which reduced the requirement for winter ditching and catchbasin clearing. This resulted in 56% less winter ditching activities than the anticipated levels for March.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

## 6) Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance

Includes work activities such as property restoration (plow damage), pothole patching, winter road patrol, employee standby, equipment standby, health and safety training (snow school), fringe benefits and tool repairs.

### Status Update

Pothole patching and contractor standby are the main activities that have been utilized under this category during the March 2023 reporting period. These activities were 20% more than the anticipated levels for March. This is contemplated to be due to the frequent freeze-thaw-cycles throughout the month which increased the requirement for pothole patching.

### Challenges

No significant challenges in this reporting period.

## Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending March 31, 2023 are summarized below. As depicted in Table 2, March 2023 is estimating a deficit of approximately \$525,000 when compared to the 2023 year-to-date budget. The actual year to date may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. The winter control surplus/deficit will form part of the year-end position.

**Table 2 – Financial Results**

<b>2023 Winter Summary As at March 31, 2023</b>					
	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>2023 YTD</b>			
		<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>% Spent YTD</b>
<b>Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting</b>	<b>8,033,170</b>	<b>4,888,361</b>	<b>5,837,896</b>	<b>(949,536)</b>	<b>119%</b>
<b>Snow Removal</b>	<b>1,188,134</b>	<b>921,341</b>	<b>1,543,906</b>	<b>(622,565)</b>	<b>168%</b>
<b>Winter Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	<b>1,334,060</b>	<b>867,139</b>	<b>746,407</b>	<b>120,732</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>	<b>1,482,340</b>	<b>1,056,175</b>	<b>785,202</b>	<b>270,973</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up</b>	<b>3,113,406</b>	<b>1,252,184</b>	<b>571,879</b>	<b>680,304</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	<b>8,610,451</b>	<b>3,974,550</b>	<b>3,999,369</b>	<b>(24,818)</b>	<b>101%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23,761,561</b>	<b>12,959,750</b>	<b>13,484,660</b>	<b>(524,910)</b>	<b>104%</b>

**Table 3 – Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance Budget Breakdown**

<b>2023 Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	
<b>Expense Type</b>	<b>Annual Budget (millions)</b>
Employee Benefits	1.83
Asphalt Patching	1.53
Internal Recoveries	1.21
Standby (Contractor Services)	0.87
Health & Safety	0.22
Other (Roads Patrol, Emergency Response, Tool Repair, Property Restoration, etc.)	0.52
Administration & Supervision	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8.81</b>

Table 4 portrays a summary of winter maintenance activities for the 2022/2023 winter season which shows an estimated over expenditure of approximately \$731,000.

**Table 4 – 2022/2023 Winter Season Financial Summary**

<b>2022/2023 Winter Season Summary as at March, 2023</b>			
	<b>Season Budget</b>	<b>Season Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting</b>	7,533,655	9,088,517	(1,554,862)
<b>Snow Removal</b>	1,169,481	1,560,787	(391,306)
<b>Winter Sidewalk Maintenance</b>	1,308,125	1,129,246	178,879
<b>Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s</b>	1,432,427	1,045,426	387,001
<b>Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up</b>	1,295,157	634,654	660,503
<b>Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance</b>	6,873,004	6,884,129	(11,125)
<b>Totals</b>	19,611,849	20,342,759	(730,910)

In summary, weather conditions have caused costs attributable to winter maintenance for the 2023 fiscal year to track above budget allocations.