

Winter Control Update – January 2026

Presented To:	Operations Committee
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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding winter maintenance activities for 2026 up to and including the month of January 2026.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

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 January 31, 2026. The estimated result for January 2026 is an over expenditure of approximately \$1,339,000 when compared to the 2026 year to date budget. The actual result may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. As per the Reserves and Reserve Funds Bylaw, any winter control over expenditures may be funded from the Roads Winter Control Reserve Fund.

Background

This report is intended to provide a summary of winter maintenance activities for the month of January 2026, 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 January, there were four winter events that required the full deployment of City crews and subcontractors.

This report provides the estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2026. The estimated

result for January 2026 is an over expenditure of approximately \$1,339,000 when compared to the 2026 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 in Table 1, during the month of January there were four major winter events which required the deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment. For 2025/2026 winter season, there have been seven winter events requiring the full deployment of all available City and contractor snow plowing equipment.

Table 1 also highlights the statistical information for the 2025/2026 winter months from Environment Canada, including the five year average for snowfall. The total snow accumulation for January 2026 was below the five year average for the same period, however, there was an additional 14 mm of rain that fell during the month. In total, it snowed or rained on 14 of the 31 days within the month. In addition, on 12 of the days throughout the month, the daily maximum temperature remained below the effective temperature range of road salt. Statistics on the Days with Precipitation and Days with Temperatures above freezing were not included for October as no winter control activities were required during that month.

Table 1 – Weather Statistics (October 2025 to January 2026)

Month	Snow Accumulation (cm)	5 Year Average (cm)	Percentage Increase/(Decrease) Compared to 5 Year Average	Snow Events	Rain/Freezing Rain Events	Days with Precipitation	Days with Temperatures Above Freezing
Oct	-	2.6	-100%	0	0		
Nov	21.90	21.78	1%	0	0	16	20
Dec	44.30	52.92	-16%	2	1	19	5
Jan	53.40	59.48	-10%	4	0	14	2
Feb							
Mar							
Apr							
May							
Jun-Sep							
Totals	119.60	136.78	-13%	6	1	49	27

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

Winter Control Services During January 2026

As noted in the summary of weather statistics, January 2026 saw snow or rain fall on 14 of the 31 days and there were four winter events which required the full deployment of all available City and Contractor snow plowing equipment. The four winter events and frequent snowfall throughout the month resulted in an over expenditure in the Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting, Winter Sidewalk Maintenance and Snow Plowing – Graders/Loaders/4x4s categories.

Further, the consistently cold temperatures through the months of December and January resulted in a significant accumulation of snow on the roadside which impacted sightlines at intersections and lane widths on Class 1 to 3 roads. Snow removal activities occurred throughout the month of January and resulted in an over expenditure in this category.

Financials

The estimated financial results for the period ending January 31, 2026, are summarized below. As shown in Table 2, the estimated result for January 2026 is an over expenditure of approximately \$1,339,000 when compared to the 2026 year-to-date budget. The actual year to date may differ as certain estimates were necessary to account for outstanding invoices. As per the Reserves and Reserve Funds Bylaw, any winter control over expenditures may be funded from the Roads Winter Control Reserve Fund.

Table 2 – Financial Results

2026 Winter Summary						
As of January 31, 2026						
	Annual Budget	2026 YTD				% Spent YTD
		Budget	Risk	Actual	Variance	
Snow Plowing/Sanding/Salting	8,596,542	2,403,652	(150,000)	3,071,457	(817,805)	136%
Snow Removal	1,199,492	309,665		818,962	(509,297)	264%
Winter Sidewalk Maintenance	1,233,234	306,688		418,925	(112,238)	137%
Snow Plowing - Graders/Loaders/4x4s	1,236,978	305,471		344,069	(38,598)	113%
Winter Ditching/Spring Clean Up	4,006,592	125,841		50,577	75,264	40%
Asphalt Patching Winter	1,926,831	192,683		217,017	(24,334)	113%
Miscellaneous Winter Maintenance	7,954,095	1,209,678		1,121,576	88,102	93%
Total	26,153,764	4,853,679	(150,000)	6,042,584	(1,338,906)	128%

Resources Cited

Operations Committee Meeting, September 15, 2025, Winter Sidewalk Maintenance Pilot Project Update, Accessed online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=57952>

Operations Committee Meeting, January 19, 2026, Winter Control Update – November 2025, Accessed online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=59090>

Operations Committee Meeting, February 18, 2026, Winter Control Update – December 2025, Accessed online: <https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=59571>