STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

MOTIONS

Minute No. 125
Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights include freedom of mobility, equal access to government services and freedom to participate equally in society;

AND WHEREAS the recent acquisition and operation of new plows dedicated to sidewalks and active transportation pathways have not achieved a snow clearing service that is the equivalent to snow clearing on roads;

AND WHEREAS the current Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy gives the Winnipeg Public Service the discretion to wait up to 36 hours to begin a sidewalk plowing operation even along P1 roads;

AND WHEREAS some residents need to use sidewalks to access transit;

AND WHEREAS a city that does not provide equal freedom of mobility and equal access to government services is violating resident's human rights;

AND WHEREAS residents are injured and suffer as a result of slips and falls where the level of snow clearing and sanding for sidewalks is not adequate;

AND WHEREAS some injuries, like hip breaks, lead to fatalities in a majority of cases in populations 65 years and over;

AND WHEREAS some contractors at times dump snow on sidewalks during road clearing operations, externalizing a cost to City crews that need to clear sidewalks after these occurrences;

AND WHEREAS it is the City's practice to clear snow in accordance with the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy;

AND WHEREAS snow and ice control activities have exceeded the adopted budget for the last 10 consecutive years;

AND WHEREAS the practice of in-year adjustments to the snow clearing budgets impact other departmental budgets and corresponding City services;

Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – Motions (continued):

AND WHEREAS establishing a Snow Clearing Reserve would provide more transparency to the amount that is spent on snow clearing, rather than the amount that is budgeted, which often is less than required for the snow clearing operations of that fiscal year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That all future snow and ice control contracts require contractors to remove snow that has been pushed onto sidewalks as a result of their snow clearing operations, and that contractors be subject to appropriate levels of enforcement including, but not limited to, fines for a failure to comply.

2. That the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy be amended for the clearance of snow and ice on all sidewalks and active transportation pathways along P1, P2 and P3 streets city wide require an equivalent level of service as P1 roads.

3. That a Snow Clearing Reserve be established to fund the snow clearing costs in excess of adopted budgets.

Automatic Referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law