



## City Prepares for Snow This Weekend

Date: Thursday, December 11, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — With Environment Canada calling for snow this weekend, now is the time to prepare for the possibility of Victoria's first snowfall of the season.

City crews are preparing for freezing temperatures and are ready to go with salt, sand and plows if needed. In the event of a snowfall, the City will make every effort to keep major arterial, emergency and bus routes open, followed by secondary and residential streets. Snow will be cleared downtown from as many streets, sidewalks at main intersections, parking lots and bus stops as possible.

Property owners are reminded that under the *Streets and Traffic Bylaw*, they are required to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of their premises. Remember the elderly or disabled, who will appreciate the assistance with snow removal. Bylaw Enforcement staff will respond to complaints from the public regarding property owners who neglect to clear the sidewalks. Unshovelled sidewalks can result in a fine of \$150, or property owners can be charged the cost of the City hiring a contractor to clear the sidewalk.

There are simple but effective measures citizens can take to prepare for a potential snowfall:

- Have a shovel, salt and sand available to clear sidewalks.
- Prepare an emergency kit containing a flashlight, radio and new batteries, and candles and matches, as well as have plenty of food and extra blankets on hand. Heavy snowfall and/or wind can bring down power lines resulting in power outages.
- Expect that roadways will be unsafe for travel.

— 30 —

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