



SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

Policy Type:	Operational	Initially Approved:	01/28/2025
Policy Sponsor:	Facilities & Infrastructure	Last Revised:	01/28/2025
Primary Contact:	Director or Public Works Superintendent	Review Scheduled:	01/2026
Approver:	Chief and Council by BCM # WFN 24/25-01-256		

A. PURPOSE

The primary objective of this policy is to establish a clear and structured framework for the effective and timely management of snow removal operations within the Wahnapitae First Nation. We aim to ensure the safety, mobility, and accessibility of all community members during the winter months, addressing challenges posed by snowfall and ensuring essential services remain accessible.

The Wahnapitae First Nations Snow Removal Services is dedicated to maintaining safe and accessible pathways for our community during winter months. Recognizing the varying needs across different sectors of our community, we have established a tiered system of priority for snow removal.

B. SCOPE

This policy encompasses all areas within the jurisdiction of Wahnapitae First Nations, including public roads, band-owned community buildings, member and non-member residential lots, and member-owned business lots. The policy covers snow removal, sanding, and salting operations and preventative activities.

C. POLICY STATEMENT

The Wahnapitae First Nation community faces challenges every winter due to snow accumulation. This policy outlines our snow removal services to ensure safety, accessibility, and community well-being throughout the winter months.

1. Safety Precautions

- 1.1. Distance from Equipment: All residents must maintain a safe distance of at least 20 feet from snow removal equipment.
- 1.2. Parking: During snowfall, residents are advised against parking on public roads to avoid obstruction and potential vehicle damage.
- 1.3. Staying Informed: We encourage our community to stay updated on weather reports, ensuring readiness and safety during winter storms.

2. Communication
 - 2.1. Updates: Should there be any significant changes, regular updates will be disseminated through our social media platforms or real-time notifications through SMS or Email alert system. Residents are encouraged to subscribe to these channels.
3. Service Standards
 - 3.1. Snow Accumulation Threshold: Our snow removal services are activated when snow accumulation reaches 5 cm or 2 inches.
 - 3.2. Service Hierarchy: Snow removal begins with main roads and community buildings, followed by business lots, and concluding with residential lots. This is outlined below in table
 - 3.3. Target Depth: Post plowing, we aim to reduce the snow depth to below 2 inches or 5 cm.
4. Hours of Operation
 - 4.1. The First Nation does not typically operate a nighttime sanding or plowing shift of personnel.
 - 4.2. Except for patrol trucks, sanders and snowplows will generally not operate between 5:30 p.m. and the route call-out time for the next day (normally 6:00 a.m., from Monday through Sunday).
5. Specific Services and Charges
 - 5.1. The priority order/tiered system ensures that the most traveled and critical areas, like public roads and community buildings, are cleared first, allowing for essential movements and access to public services.
 - 5.2. Our charges for snow removal services vary based on the type of lot, ownership, and service required. This tiered charge system reflects the resources and time involved in servicing each area.
 - 5.3. While public areas are serviced at no cost as they are vital for community function, other areas have nominal fees associated to support the sustainability of our snow removal operations.
 - 5.4. Snowbanks will be removed where there is a lack of visibility, pedestrian access is severely hindered or inadequate snow storage.

Table 1: Priority-Tiers and Fees

	Priority 1- High	Priority 2- Medium	Priority 3	Priority 4
Space/ Lots	Public Roads and Band-Owned Community Buildings and sidewalks.	Member-Owned Businesses (no sidewalks).	Residential Lots: 1)Seniors (over age 55). 2)General population.	Non-member Residential.
Services	Snow plowing, sanding and salting. Snowbank maintenance.	Snow plowing and sanding. Snowbank maintenance.	Snow plowing and sanding.	Snow plowing and sanding.
Charges	Band-owned facilities are free from charges.	Will be quoted and agreed upon based on the driveway.	Will be quoted and agreed upon based on the driveway.	Will be quoted and agreed upon based on the driveway.

*Please note: Snow clearing will be given highest priority at no cost for the emergent situations of a medical emergency or situation which may immediately jeopardize life or property. Of note, emergencies do not include scheduled medical appointments.

6. Significant Weather Events, and Malfunctions
 - 6.1. Operations might be delayed due to reasons like equipment malfunctions, heavy snowfalls, or significant weather events.
 - 6.2. If the First Nation declares a significant weather event relating to snow accumulation, the standard for addressing snow accumulation on main roadways until the declaration of the end of the significant weather event is the Director of Infrastructure or assigned staff. They will monitor the weather through various channels, including Environment Canada and MTO, at least 2 x per day from November 1st to April 30th and the remaining months 1 x per day.
 - 6.3. If deemed practicable by the First Nation, to deploy resources to address snow accumulation on roadways, starting from the time that the First Nation deems appropriate to do so and lasting up to 8 hours for prevention and maintenance activities. This timeframe allows the First Nation to ensure that the main roadways and emergency centres remain open. There is no expectation to move beyond Priority 1 during a declaration of a significant weather event.
 - 6.4. All public roadways within the territory are deemed to be in a "state of repair" with respect to snow accumulation until the end of the time-period required expires following the declaration of the end of the significant weather event by the First Nation.
 - 6.5. If the significant weather event lasts more than 18 hours, the emergency plan will be engaged.
 - 6.6. Following the end of the weather hazard in respect of which a significant weather event was declared by the First Nation, the First Nation shall:
 - a) declare the end of the significant weather event.
 - b) address snow accumulation on major roadways and band-owned buildings as a priority, which may take days depending on the severity of the storm.
 - c) Provide ongoing patrol of areas.
 - 6.7. The First Nation declares the beginning of a significant weather event or declaring the end of a significant weather event under this Policy in one or more of the following ways:
 - a) By posting a notice on the website.
 - b) By making an announcement on a social media platform, such as Facebook and text messaging alert system.
 - c) By a press release or similar communication to internet, newspaper, radio or television media.
 - d) A combination of a-c.
 - 6.8. The First Nation can close part or all of the roadways during a significant weather event, at which time the roadways will be deemed to be in a state of repair from the time of closure to announcement of re-opening.
7. Resident Responsibilities
 - 7.1. Clearing Responsibilities: Residents are asked to maintain responsibility of the clearing of parts of their property such as decks, paths, and driveway entrances.
 - 7.2. Snow Depositing: Snow from private properties should not be moved onto public roads.
 - 7.3. The First Nation does not assume responsibility and shall not be held accountable for any damages sustained to items in driveway or near driveway to be plowed.

8. Environmental Considerations
 - 8.1. Eco-friendly Products: Our commitment extends to using only eco-friendly de-icing agents.
 - 8.2. Minimizing Impact: We ensure minimal disturbance to natural surroundings during our operations.
9. Service Exemptions and Additional Services
 - 9.1 Exemptions: Specific remote or less-traveled areas might not receive immediate service. A list is available on request.
 - 9.2 Subject to charges, services like snow hauling or removal can be available upon request, pending the availability of operators, machinery, and the state of weather or impending weather.
10. Feedback and Concerns
 - 10.1. Residents can share feedback; report missed areas or raise concerns via an email or phone.

D. DEFINITIONS

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| (1) | Band: | Means Wahnapiatae First Nation. |
| (2) | Band-Owned Community Buildings | Structures and facilities owned by the band that serve communal functions, including administrative buildings, community centers, and gathering places. |
| (3) | Member- Owned Business Lots | Parcels of land owned by members of Wahnapiatae First nations where businesses operate. |
| (4) | Member Residential lots | Parcels of land owned by members of Wahnapiatae First nation where private residences are situated. |
| (5) | Public Roads or Roadways | These refer to all main and side roads under the jurisdiction of Wahnapiatae First Nations that are used for regular vehicular and pedestrian traffic. |
| (6) | Salt/Sand | The process of spreading salt/sand on icy or slippery surfaces to provide traction. |
| (7) | Significant Weather Event: | <p>A Significant Weather Event may be declared in response to the following weather conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant snow accumulation on roadways and/or sidewalks during a twenty-four (24) hour period • Ice formations on roadways and/or sidewalks that occurs with little to no warning • Cold temperature when de-icing operations will not be effective. <p>If a Significant Weather Event is declared, WFN will continue to monitor the weather and will declare the end of the Significant Weather Event as soon as practicable after the relevant weather conditions have ceased.</p> |

(8) Snow Removal Operations

All activities associated with the clearing of snow from roads, pathways, parking lots and other public spaces. This includes the use of plows, snow blowers, and manual labor.

E. REVISION HISTORY

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Band Council Motion

SNOWPLOW AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Owner desires the First Nation to snowplow a private driveway when the owner places a snow removal flag at the end of their driveway.

NOW, THEREFORE, the First Nation and the Owner agree as follows:

1. The First Nation agrees to snowplow the private driveway of the Owner when so requested by the Owner, however it shall be agreed that such snowplowing shall only be undertaken at the sole discretion of the First Nation according to the tier/priority system.
2. The Owner hereby agrees to pay to the First Nation the rate quoted based on current snow removal fees.
3. In the event that the charges for work done are not paid within 30 days of the billing date, the Owner agrees that interest will be added per month at the current rate set by the First Nation.
4. This agreement must be renewed at the beginning of each snow removal season (Nov 1st).
5. The Band shall have the right to refuse to snowplow any private driveway that in the opinion of the snowplow operator will be hazardous to snowplow.
6. The First Nation shall have the right to refuse to snowplow any private driveway that in the opinion of the snowplow operator is too narrow in width or where the trees have become overgrown.
7. The Owner hereby covenants and agrees that they will at all times indemnify and save harmless the First Nation, its servants, agents and employees from and against all loss, damage or injury however caused, which may at any time during the continuance of this Agreement occur to any person or the property of any person including the Owner.

Name	Signature
Date	911 Address
Email	Phone