

To: Council  
cc Resident of Lacombe  
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO  
Date: April 30, 2019

**Reference: 11/154/2019-155**

## RE: Windrow Residue (Gravel and Salt-Sand on Residential Lawns)

Thank you for forwarding the written concerns regarding the residual sanding material left on lawns from the City's residential snow clearing operations. Unfortunately, this situation is one that comes up with relative frequency in the spring. In most neighbourhoods, snow clearing is completed by windrowing the snow to one side of the street or the other as per the [Snow Clearing Policy](#).

Depending on the snow fall and temperature, the windrows become larger over the course of the winter, potentially narrowing the drivable portion of the road and hindering visibility at intersections. Where these issues are more likely to develop (at intersections, in neighbourhoods where the road is narrower and where street parking is well utilized) snow is pushed behind the curb to an area still within the public road allowance at the onset of the winter season. In other areas snow is initially windrowed on the road and pushed behind the curb only if required.

Snow is only hauled offsite if windrowing more snow within the road allowance would encroach on the drive lane, if visibility becomes an issue at intersections, and/or if dictated by the Policy. The residual material left behind after the snow has melted is primarily salt-sand, and other normal road debris left on the adjacent roads. Salt-sand is applied more often on Priority 1/2 roads as well as intersections so, in the spring, nearby residential lots are the most impacted by the residual material – although many residential lots in Lacombe are impacted by it to a varying degree.

Administration recently surveyed 10 of the City's comparable municipalities and confirmed that on residential roads, 4 windrow snow (as Lacombe does) and 6 haul snow offsite. One, the Town of Sylvan Lake, windrows snow but also sweeps residential front lawns in the spring using mechanical equipment.

If it is Council's desire to proactively address the residue issue in Lacombe, Council may consider amending the policy to include:

- a proactive sweeping program for all residential lots,
- a proactive sweeping program for residential lots most affected (ie: near intersections and priority 1 and 2 roads),
- hauling snow offsite for all residential roads, or
- hauling snow offsite for residential lots most affected

Council's annual review of the City's snow clearing policy is scheduled to occur on May 27<sup>th</sup>. This review will be an opportunity for Council to provide feedback on the snow clearing levels of service. Based on

Council's feedback Administration would outline the financial implications of any contemplated Policy amendments, during the 2020 budget deliberations.

Sincerely,

FOIP Act section 17(1)

Matthew Goudy, P.Eng  
Chief Administrative Officer