

Council Member Inquiry/Motion Form
Demande de renseignements d'un membre du Conseil /Formulaire de motion

From/Exp. :

Councillor C. Doucet
(City Council)

Date :

23 January 2008

File/Dossier :

02-08

To/Dest. :

Deputy City Manager, Public Works and Services

Subject/Objet :

Snow Removal

Inquiry/Demande de renseignements
Motion

Whereas the snow storm of December 16/17th 2007 overwhelmed the normal snow clearing operations such that lack of on street storage space meant many sidewalks in older neighbourhoods had to wait a week or more for snow removal to be passable;

Whereas many complaints were received from the public and echoed by the school board with concern about the safety of children walking to school;

Whereas many seniors were shut in for much longer than usual snow clearing standards would require;

Whereas many complainants pointed out other areas of the city with wider streets had been cleared multiple times while sidewalks on narrow streets remained untouched;

Whereas the prolonged impassability of sidewalks poses a serious safety hazard for school children and seniors in particular;

Can snow removal policy be enhanced for neighbourhoods with narrower streets to include options such as:

- giving priority to snow clearing and removal in school zones and on routes to schools,
- not having snow removal crews operating heavy machinery near schools during drop-off and pick-up hours,
- when on-street snow storage is overwhelmed, giving priority to the sidewalk on one side of the street and using the other for storage,
- giving priority to sidewalks surrounding seniors residences and nursing homes,

- maintaining a list of high priority catch basins which ought to be the first to be cleared to prevent flooding in the event of thaw?

Are there other options that could better restore the usability of sidewalks for the most vulnerable after a major snow fall?

Can the response to this inquiry be tabled as an agenda item for consideration at a Transportation Committee meeting?