



August 30, 2026

Edmonton City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City of Edmonton  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2R7

To Mayor Knack and City Council:

**Re: 7.1 Snow and Ice Control Policy and Program Review  
Community and Public Services Committee meeting on August 31, 2026**

We would like to acknowledge City leadership and the Snow & Ice Control team for their ongoing engagement with Edmonton's Business Improvement Areas, including the Edmonton Downtown Business Association. During major snow events in the 2025/26 winter season, the regular operational updates provided to stakeholders were greatly appreciated and helped businesses better understand current conditions and anticipated activities.

From our perspective, the "woolly mammoth" in the room is snow removal.

While much attention is focused on snow clearing and winter maintenance service levels, the cost and logistics of snow removal present challenges for all parties in both the public and private sectors. Snow removal is expensive for municipalities, property owners, businesses, and residents alike. Beyond cost, there are also practical realities, including limited space for on-site snow storage and the complexity of moving large volumes of snow during and after major winter events.

These realities have implications for the transportation network and public realm. Accumulated snow can affect roadway capacity, turning movements, loading activity, curbside access, parking availability, public transit, and the efficient movement of people, goods and services. In the downtown environment, these impacts can influence business access, customer experience, and overall confidence in the quality of City services.

We also recognize that, despite longstanding rules prohibiting the placement of snow from private property onto public property, the practice continues year after year. While often driven by economic and practical considerations, the cumulative impact can undermine the City's snow and ice operations and reduce the effectiveness of the roadways, sidewalks and public spaces that serve businesses, residents and visitors alike.

For strategic areas such as Downtown Edmonton, this points to the need for a broader conversation that goes beyond traditional service levels. The City, BIAs, property managers, businesses, and contractors all have a role to play in maintaining an accessible, functional and economically vibrant city throughout the winter season.



Success should not be measured solely by service levels, but also by the resulting accessibility, mobility, economic activity and confidence achieved within important urban districts.

We encourage Administration to engage stakeholders on a coordinated approach to snow removal, where enforcement and public- and private-sector practices are considered together as part of a more holistic approach. The Edmonton Downtown Business Association would welcome participation in these discussions as we collectively work to strengthen the downtown experience and support City Council's priorities of economic development, growth management, quality services, and safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James L. Robinson  
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