



Cape Breton
Regional
Municipality

Winter Operations 2026

Report to Council



**Cape Breton
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Jurisdiction

CBRM

Primarily urban roads within the former towns and City. Exception being designated unlisted roads and all sidewalks in the former County of Cape Breton

Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NSDPW)

Primarily rural roads and highways within the former County of Cape Breton except those designated as CBRM's



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Operations

5 Major Winter Operations

- Roadway Salting
- Roadway Plowing
- Sidewalk Plowing and Ice Control
- Snow Clearing / Removal
- Hydrant Clearing

Levels of Service



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Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

- Winter sidewalk maintenance starts after the roads are completed.
- Not all sidewalks are done
- Sidewalks are cleared on a priority basis.
- Priority 1 – Around schools, commercial areas
- Priority 2, and 3 are done only after all the Priority 1's are complete.
- Very seldom do we get to the end of the priority 3's before another snow event
- We review the sidewalk network and priority levels and try to respond to different situations and new developments.

Winter Sidewalk Maintenance

APPENDIX 3 - SIDEWALK PLOWING / DE-ICING LEVEL OF SERVICE

Category ⁴	Plowing to Commence after Accumulation of (cm)	Type of Operation	Target Time to Complete Plowing (Hrs) after Road plowing is complete
Priority 1 Sidewalks ¹	8 - 10 cm (or when de-icing is insufficient)	Full Operation (Overtime if Required)	24 hrs
Priority 2 Sidewalks ²	8 - 10 cm (or when de-icing is insufficient)	Full Operation (Overtime if Required)	36 - 48 hrs
Priority 3 Sidewalks ³	8 - 10 cm (or when de-icing is insufficient)	Partial Operation (Regularly Scheduled Shifts)	3 - 5 days
Rural Sidewalks ⁴	8 - 10 cm (or when de-icing is insufficient)	Full Operation (Contracted Service)	24 - 48 hrs

Notes:

1. Priority 1 Sidewalks are located on Major Arterial and Collector routes, Downtown Business Districts and Routes to schools and hospitals
2. Priority 2 Sidewalks include sidewalks on Minor Collector Routes, Transit Routes and high pedestrian traffic corridors.
3. Priority 3 Sidewalks are located in residential areas and provide access corridors for residents.
4. Rural sidewalks are located adjacent to Provincially maintained roads and streets. The timing of plowing of these sidewalks is affected by the provincial levels of service for highway plowing.
5. Not all sidewalks receive winter maintenance. Approximately 60% of Sidewalks are maintained for snow and ice removal by the Municipality



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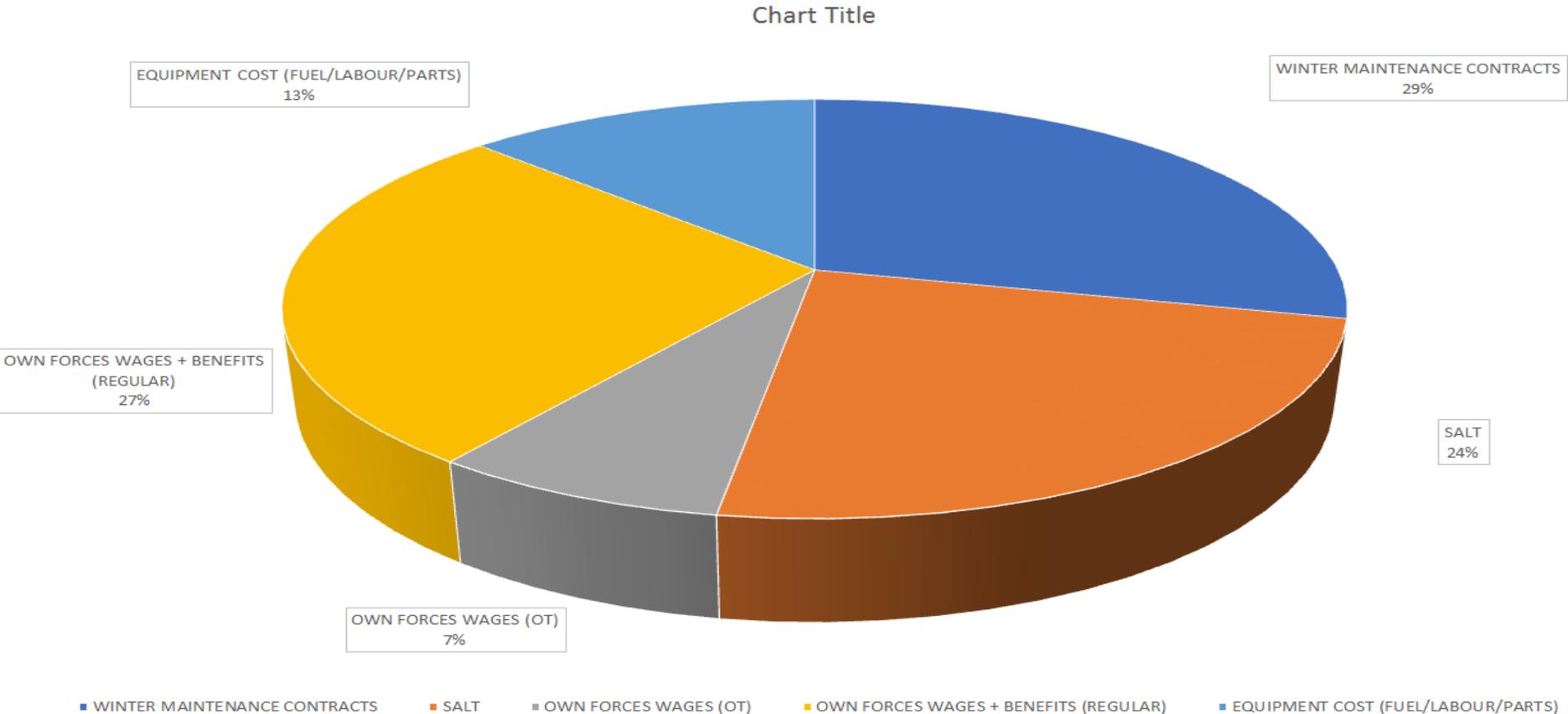
Winter Parking Ban

CBRM has a winter parking ban

- Effective December 15 – March 31
Winter Parking Regulations are in place to help Public Works crews keep our streets clear.
- This means NO street parking between 1-6 a.m. every night, **as well as during and within two hours of snowfall.**
- Any vehicles obstructing snow removal efforts will be ticketed and towed.

Winter Maintenance Cost

ESTIMATED COST OF WINTER MAINTENANCE		NOTES
WINTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS	\$ 1,208,770.00	Urban Roads, Unlisted Roads, Alleyways, Rural Sidewalks, Snow Removal
SALT	\$ 1,000,000.00	Approx. 10,000 tonnes @ ~ 100 / tonne
OWN FORCES WAGES (OT)	\$ 321,464.00	Based on Historical Trends
OWN FORCES WAGES + BENEFITS (REGULAR)	\$ 1,141,512.00	1/3 of PW Wages/Benefits allocated to Winter Maintenance for 4 months / year
EQUIPMENT COST (FUEL/LABOUR/PARTS)	\$ 540,000.00	Estimated from known costs for sidewalk gear. (Need to update with better info)
TOTAL	\$ 4,211,746.00	





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Equipment

Maintained in 4 public works garages with a team of automotive and heavy equipment mechanics

FLEET

- Graders
- Loaders with wing blades
- Loaders with buckets
- Salt trucks with blades
- Salt trucks
- Backhoes (some with blades)
- Ton trucks with blades and salters
- Sidewalk Plows (with blades/blowers)
- Tractors with blowers
- Blowers for Loaders



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Questions