



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Maple Ridge Prepared for Forecasted Snowfall

Maple Ridge, BC: Environment Canada has issued a snowfall warning for Metro Vancouver. Snow is expected to start in the early hours of Friday morning and possibly continue through to Monday morning. The City of Maple Ridge has twelve snow removal vehicles that can be deployed and in operation 24/7 if the need arises. The City's priorities for snow removal are major transportation routes, steep hills, bus routes and assisting Fire, Police or Ambulance.

"While we often get mocked by our friends and family in eastern Canada, but the reality is we have had very little snowfall in the last few years and snow and cold temperatures can create very dangerous driving conditions," said Superintendent David Fleugel from the Ridge Meadows RCMP. "We urge citizens to follow the latest weather forecasts and as snow begins to fall please adjust your driving habits to suit the conditions. If a heavy snowfall does hit we encourage citizens to stay off the roads for any non-essential travel to keep routes clear for snow removal vehicles and first responders."

Patrick Cullen, Emergency Program Coordinator for the City of Maple Ridge notes "The City's webpage titled Extreme Snow and Cold found at <http://www.mapleridge.ca/1230>, outlines our cold weather program and provides information on what you can do to be prepared for any snowfall. There are links to the City's plan for snow removal as well as the Provincial contractors who keep Lougheed Highway and the bridges clear throughout a snowfall."

The City would like to remind citizens and businesses that they are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses by 10:00 am to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

The most up to date weather forecasts and road conditions are broadcast on the local AM radio stations including CBC AM690, CHMJ AM730, CKNW AM 980 and CKWX AM1130. Heavy snowfall can result in power outages. You can get the latest updates from BC Hydro on their website bchydro.com and from their Twitter feed at [@bchydro](https://twitter.com/bchydro).

Make sure you have your snow brush and window scraper readily available over the next few weeks as the long term forecast is for cooler temperatures and potential future snowfalls. Clearing your vehicle before you hit the road will ensure that you have maximum visibility. Snowfall amounts vary greatly around the Lower Mainland and we encourage citizens to check local conditions before embarking on a trip outside the community. The bottom line – please be safe.

For more information on this media release please contact Patrick Cullen, Emergency Program Coordinator at 604-467-7301 or via email at pcullen@mapleridge.ca