



RM of Loon Lake #561

Policy Type:	Transportation
Policy Title:	Snowploughing of RM Roads
Policy Number:	300-07

Authority:	
<i>Council Resolution #</i>	<i>109/21</i>

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Public Works Department staff to follow in order to ensure consistent practices for snow removal.

**Background:**

The Rural Municipality of Loon Lake No. 561 maintains approximately 250 miles of municipal roads during the winter, not including 9 subdivisions located within the R.M. In order to reasonably meet the public’s expectations, the following policy will apply.

**Policy:**

**Hours of Operation**

In a snow event, a check for snow will be conducted by the Public Works Foreman (or his alternate) first thing in the morning and if the snow fall is sufficient to require snow plowing, the Public Works Foreman will organize to have roads plowed, at his discretion.

1. When a heavy wind storm has occurred, the Public Works Foreman will determine if it is necessary for all or some plows to clear possible snow drifts within the Municipality.
2. When blizzard conditions exist, plowing will begin when it subsides.
3. When plowing is required, the entire route is done in the most efficient order.
4. Operator duty shifts are generally limited to a maximum of 12 hours per day for safety. Operations will be halted when: (a) service levels are reached, (b) coverage time has elapsed, (c) conditions are too hazardous or (d) reasonable accomplishments cannot be made.
5. After a major storm, cleanup operations will be on-going for multiple days.
6. In the event of a severe storm where it is deemed necessary that additional equipment will be required, the Municipality may hire individual contractors to assist the Municipality in clearing the roads in a timely manner.
7. While it is acknowledged that voluntary assistance is sometimes provided by general ratepayers or contractors in the event of a severe storm event, ONLY those contractors or individuals that are contacted and approved by the Municipality’s Foreman or designated alternate to assist in snow plowing efforts will be financially compensated.

**Route Determination**

1. The road and route determination will be decided on by the Public Works department. Typically, the order of snow plowing will follow the classification of roads. The roads that will be plowed first will be the major arteries, then the minor arterials, then the major collectors and finally the

minor collectors. The roads will be plowed according to a route that allows the grader operator to complete the route with the minimal amount of back tracking. Therefore, some minor roads may be plowed first in order to provide the most efficient plowing schedule.

2. Where practical the public works foreman schedule snowploughing as to alternate start areas.
3. Many factors will be considered when determining road adequacy and maintainability during typical and non-typical conditions and residence access requirements.
4. Personal driveways will be snow plowed after all roads have been completed unless it is convenient for the operator to clear the snow while he is in the near vicinity but it will be at the sole discretion of the operator. See *Policy 300-06 Snowploughing of Driveways/Lanes*

### **Subdivision Roads**

1. The RM annually will request tenders to supply equipment and personnel to snowplough subdivision roads as shown on Schedule A.
2. Tenders should be awarded prior to October 15 of each year. Council resolution is required to award tender.
3. Contractor shall enter into an agreement to supply snowplough services to the RM of Loon Lake No. 561.

### **Seasonal Roads**

1. A map of all roads shown on Schedule B that have been delegated as seasonal roads will be presented to council at their regular meeting held in October each year.
2. Council shall review seasonal roads and amend map accordingly as to which seasonal roads will be removed or added to the map.
3. Any roads deemed non seasonal by council shall be incorporated into the snowplough route by the public works staff.
4. If requested, a seasonal road maybe opened, the cost shall be charged to rate payer making requests at rates set out in Custom Work Policy 300-04.
5. The RM public works foreman reserves the right to refuse to do any custom work do to availability of equipment or manpower and where conditions exist that may damage equipment or property.

### **Exceptions**

Some variations in this plan may be necessary as special snow conditions may arise.

### **Effective Date/Repeal**

This policy will come into effect on April 15, 2021 unless otherwise specified and shall be implemented as outlined in this policy. This policy repeals and replaces all resolutions and any policies pertaining to Snowploughing of and replaces all past practices. This policy may only be amended or repealed by resolution of Council.