

DECISION/DIRECTION NOTE

Title: Revisions to the Winter Parking Restrictions

Date Prepared: October 22, 2019

Report To: Committee of the Whole

Councillor and Role: Councillor Ian Froude, Public Works & Sustainability

Ward: N/A

Decision/Direction Required:

1. Revise the start date of the winter on-street parking restrictions to begin on December 1 each year. These parking restrictions are normally implemented in early January however the exact date varies each year.
2. Extend the overnight parking ban for streets outside the downtown when operationally required. This restriction would apply when the DCM determined it is necessary, for example, during a snow event and for 24-hours thereafter.
3. Revise the hours of the Downtown Winter Parking Restriction. This restriction is used on streets scheduled for snow removal operations. The current restriction is from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and the proposed restriction is from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Discussion – Background and Current Status:

The City of St. John's currently has four winter parking restrictions:

- I. The [Business District Winter Parking Restriction](#) begins in early January and is lifted when conditions are favourable, often in early April. Parking is restricted between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. regardless of snow or street conditions.
- II. The [No Parking-Snow Route](#) runs from December 1 to March 31 each year and parking is prohibited 24 hours a day on streets designated as Snow Routes. These streets can be located anywhere in the city and are clearly marked with permanent signs. These restrictions are necessary so that ice control and snow clearing equipment can safely service the streets.
- III. The [Downtown Winter Parking Restriction](#) is utilized for snow removal operations. Parking is restricted from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. on streets scheduled for snow removal.
- IV. The parking restriction for streets [Outside the Downtown and Business District](#) begins in early January and is lifted when conditions are favourable, often in early April. On-street parking is not permitted between 12:30 and 7:30 a.m., regardless of snow or street conditions.

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Proposed Revisions

The following proposed revisions to the winter parking restrictions are designed to improve service delivery efficiencies and increase the overall snow clearing level of service.

1. Parking Restrictions in areas Outside the Downtown and in the Business District

The following parking restrictions are normally implemented in early January each year however the implementation date can vary depending on weather conditions and forecasts.

- Winter on-street parking restriction for areas outside the Downtown and Business District between 12:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
- Business District Winter Parking Restriction in the early morning between 4:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

The winter parking restrictions allow safer and more efficient snow clearing of city streets since equipment will not have to maneuver around parked cars nor will they need to return to clear areas where vehicles were parked. Delayed implementation of these parking restrictions can cause difficulties for operations staff when there are snowfalls with significant accumulation in December.

The parking restriction was implemented in December the past two years. Changing the date of the parking restriction after the season starts results in a scramble to ensure the public receives adequate notification and that parking enforcement staff are available. This proposed change was discussed with Communications staff and their experience is that an inconsistent implementation date causes confusion which results in public anger and reputational damage. The inconsistent implementation date typically causes more problems compared to the perceived benefit of a later start date. Consistent dates each year would result in easier communication, preparation, and a higher level of service in December.

St. John's receives the most snow (335cm annually) of any major city in Canada. An implementation date of December 1 is common for winter parking restrictions in Atlantic Canadian cities. The details of the parking restrictions in neighboring municipalities plus several other cities were reviewed and they are summarized in the following table.

Municipality	Overnight Parking Restriction	
	Date	Time
Mount Pearl	Dec 1 to Mar 31	1:00 to 8:00am
Paradise	Dec 1 to Mar 31	1:00 to 8:00am
Conception Bay South	Dec 1 to Apr 30	Midnight to 10:00am
Torbay	Dec 1 to Mar 31	1:00 to 7:00am
Portugal Cove-St. Philip's	Nov 1 to Apr 30	Midnight to 8:00am
Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove	Nov 1 to Apr 30	No Parking Any Time
Corner Brook (annual snow 401cm)	Dec 1 to May 1	Midnight to 8:00am
Moncton (annual snow 282cm)	Dec 1 to Mar 31	Midnight to 7:00am
Fredericton (annual snow 252cm)	Dec 1 to Mar 31	Midnight to 7:00am
Halifax* – (annual snow 154cm)	Dec 15 to Mar 31	1:00 to 6:00am

Note: table data collected from each municipality's website in October 2020.

** only during declared event*

2. Snow Event Parking Restriction

This is a temporary 24-hour parking restriction, parking will not be permitted on any street outside the Downtown and the Business District during a storm and for 24-hours thereafter. This parking restriction will be enforced upon a Declaration by the Deputy City Manager of Public Works when operationally required. It will likely be when Environment Canada forecasts 5cm of snow or more. Like other winter parking restrictions, this allows crews to clear snow more effectively and efficiently when they do not have to work around parked cars. This also reduces the need to return to clear areas where vehicles were parked.

A snow event parking restriction is also not uncommon in the St. John's metropolitan area. The details of the snow event parking restrictions in neighboring municipalities were reviewed and they are summarized in the following table.

Municipality	Parking Prohibited during and after snowfall?
Mount Pearl	Yes, 12 hours
Paradise	Yes, 24 hours
Conception Bay South	Yes, 24 hours
Torbay	Yes, 24 hours
Portugal Cove-St. Philip's	Yes, 12 hours
Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove	Yes, no parking any time from Nov 1 to Apr 30

3. Downtown Winter Parking Restriction

The Downtown Winter Parking Restriction is only utilized when a street is scheduled for snow removal operations and the restriction is in effect from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. The City's snow removal operations begin at 11:00 p.m. and vehicles are often still parked on the street. Crews also find that traffic volume is increasing earlier in the morning and it is best to reopen the streets to traffic earlier than 7:30 a.m.

The proposed time for the Downtown Winter Parking Restriction is from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. on streets which are scheduled for overnight snow removal.

Key Considerations/Implications:

1. Budget/Financial Implications:

- Parking enforcement staff for the winter parking restrictions will be required on December 1.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

- All residents and businesses.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

- A City That Moves

4. Legal or Policy Implications:

- The first recommendation can be implemented under the existing Snow Clearing By-Law. It is not recommended that the By-Law be amended to specify December 1, as Public Works may wish to have the flexibility to bring the restrictions in even earlier

depending on winter conditions. The existing wording in the By-Law allows for this flexibility.

- The second recommendation would require an amendment to the By-Law to specify how notification of an extended ban is satisfied. If relying solely on online communications, the By-law can be amended as similar to the notification provisions in the Street Cleaning By-Law.
- Legal recommends an amendment to the By-Law to change the applicable times. If the times of the downtown winter parking restriction is amended legal recommend that the restriction for outside the downtown/business district be amended as well to reduce confusion.

5. Privacy Implications: N/A

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

- The recommended changes will be supported with a comprehensive communications strategy, including information in the City Guide, on the City's website, on the City's social media channels and through traditional advertising, as required.
- It is strongly recommended that the information on the various winter parking bans and restrictions be communicated in the Winter edition of the City Guide, which residents, City communications and the Legal Department rely upon. To meet the deadline for the winter, a decision is required by November 2.

7. Human Resource Implications:

- Parking enforcement staff for the winter parking restrictions will be required on December 1.

8. Procurement Implications: N/A

9. Information Technology Implications: N/A

10. Other Implications: N/A

Recommendations:

That Council

1. Revise the start date of the Winter On-street Parking Restriction for areas outside the Downtown and the Business District Winter Parking Restriction to December 1 each year. This parking restriction is currently implemented in early January and the exact date varies each year.
2. Extend the overnight parking ban in areas outside the downtown, when operationally required. This restriction would apply when the DCM determines it is necessary due to a snow event.
3. Revise the hours of Downtown Winter Parking Restriction which is used during snow removal operations. The current restriction is from 12:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and the proposed hours are from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

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Approved by:

Report Approval Details

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Lynnann Winsor - Oct 22, 2020 - 9:09 AM