

Friday » February  
23 » 2007

## Alderman suggests upping snow budget

**Joel Kom**

Calgary Herald

*Friday, February 23, 2007*

Spurred by heavy snowfall that surpassed February's monthly average in less than two weeks, a city alderman wants \$1.5 million added to this year's snow removal budget.

The snowfall saw a spate of accidents on streets and complaints from drivers, showing that city roads need more attention, Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart said Thursday.

Citing the growth in both Calgary's population and road network -- the latter has expanded by 1,000 kilometres since 2003 -- Colley-Urquhart said the city needs to increase and expand the snow removal service.

"Bottom line, we're not getting the job done," she said. "I don't believe we can continue to pray for good weather to get us out of this problem."

Colley-Urquhart wants the snow and ice budget raised to \$20 million from \$18.5 million.

But that increase might not come right away; city council might simply ask staff to look into how much it would cost to raise the service level.

A motion from Ald. Bob Hawkes-worth calling for a budget review will come before council on Monday.

Hawkesworth said Thursday he was more interested in increasing service on roads that already get it and not expanding to those that don't.

Roads such as Crowchild Trail, Glenmore, John Laurie Boulevard and downtown streets get top priority, while less busy arteries such as Edmonton Trail and Centre Street come next.

Residential streets follow on the priority list, and while Hawkesworth doesn't necessarily agree with Colley-Urquhart's call for more residential service, he does want to find out how much it would cost.

"That wasn't where I was headed, but if we're going to be preparing a report, we might as well have all the information," he said.

More than 21 centimetres of snow has fallen so far this month, well above the average of 13.4 centimetres for all of February.

And it looks like the city's snow woes aren't over just yet.

Environment Canada was forecasting two centimetres of snow overnight, tapering off this afternoon. It's expected to clear up over the weekend, with Saturday seeing a high of zero and no snow in the forecast through Monday.

[jkom@theherald.canwest.com](mailto:jkom@theherald.canwest.com)

© The Calgary Herald 2007

CLOSE WINDOW

---

Copyright © 2007 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.