
Subject: Comments - Brynn Harris-Hamm - Snow Removal

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:34 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Comments - Brynn Harris-Hamm - Snow Removal

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED]

Submitted on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - 09:33

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Tuesday, May 06, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Brynn

Last Name: Harris-Hamm

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Brin

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Coldspring Cres

Ward: Ward 9

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Snow removal

Comments:

To the hard-working members of Saskatoon City Council,

I just wanted to send you a quick note after reading in the news today that the city is considering moving the goalposts when it comes to our expectations for snow removal each winter.

I really hope Council won't decide to lower our goals just because they haven't been met properly in recent years. I think we all know that when we fail to reach goals in life, the answer isn't to lower the bar. The answer is to keep trying to do better in the future. Please, please consider keeping stringent goals in place for snow removal in Saskatoon, because our quality of life depends on that.

I also wanted to urge you to reconsider where school zones sit in our tiered removal system. As a parent, I can tell you it's very difficult to live in this city in the winter because of how long it takes for school zones to be plowed and for snow to be removed. After bad storms, school zones are impassable, it's impossible to pull over and park to drop kids off, and everything comes to a standstill as parents and buses try to get through. It's an absolute nightmare. It usually takes 3-4 days for the zones to be plowed, which is almost a full school week. It's really unacceptable.

I'd also like to make sure Council is aware that plowing in zones just isn't enough. After plows go through the zones, huge windrows/snow piles are left lining the roads, again leaving nowhere for parents to park or drop off kids... the streets are restricted down to one lane, which becomes a disaster especially as buses try to go through..and the piles are extremely dangerous as kids climb on them, sometimes just to be able to cross the street, because sometimes crews leave the windrows blocking crosswalks entirely. I couldn't believe the city thought it was okay to leave zones in such a state... even for a day or two. My kids go to Lakeridge School and I cannot tell you how concerned and frustrated I was watching tiny kids try to climb up and over windrows to cross the street! The kids aren't even visible to traffic until they are over the pile and sliding down into the road. It's terrible.

I was so frustrated that I went to the school in the evening myself and shovelled walkways through all of the big snow piles. The city did end up coming back to the school zone eventually to improve things, but that was at least a day or two later and a lot of accidents could happen during that time.

School zones absolutely need to be a higher priority in this city, both for children's safety, and for the sanity of parents. It shouldn't be so hard just to get kids to school in the winter. We can and should do better and make life easier and safer for everyone.

IF Council decides school zones will not be made a higher priority, PLEASE, would you tell parents what you expect us to do after big snowstorms when the zones are impassable and there is nowhere to park? I really feel we need a directive from Council on this. If snow won't be plowed or removed due to \$, what are we to do? Does the city recommend keeping kids home on those days after a storm when conditions around the school are unsafe and a mess? I would really appreciate you all having a chat about that and letting us know. It would be very helpful.

I have written to the city a few times about this and haven't heard whether Council has had an in-depth discussion about the snow removal problems in school zones. I'd love to know whether that has happened or will happen.

This issue is top of mind for me, as winter is always so stressful in this city, and I had a family member who once slipped off of a windrow and was run over by a bus by her school. I just want to make sure that won't happen again to more kids in Saskatoon.

I'll end this here.. as I have to get going but thanks very much for taking the time to read this note. I hope you all have a great spring/summer season!!

Best regards,

Brynn Harris-Hamm

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No

