

**Date:** 2023-09-27

**Subject:** **Information Report - Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program**

**Contact:** Shane Loftus, Manager, Transportation Right-Of-Way & Safety

**Report Number:** Public Works & Engineering-2023-827

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report from Shane Loftus, Manager, Transportation Right-Of-Way & Safety to the Committee of Council Meeting of October 11, 2023, re: **Information Report - Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program**, be received.

**Overview:**

- **Brampton residents who live in rental properties are not eligible for the Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program.**
- **The Program helps seniors and people with disabilities with costs incurred from hiring a service provider to remove snow from their sidewalks and driveways.**
- **Staff reviewed the feasibility of changes to the Program's eligibility that would include rentals with a resident who is 65 years of age or older or living with a disability.**
- **Based on historical Program data and current Census data, it is anticipated that expanded eligibility would cost an additional \$237,000.**

**Background:**

On September 20, 2023, the Committee of Council requested a review of the eligibility criteria for the Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program (Program) and consider new criteria, as well as the associated financial impacts, that would include seniors and people with disabilities who are the principal renter of a property in the City.

The City has approximately 41,410 rentals (21.9% overall) according to 2021 Census data. The percentage of the City's population who are 65 years and older is 12.5%.

In 2022/23, the City approved 3,099 applications resulting in a total cost of \$904,144.

### Program Overview

The City established the Program to help senior citizens and people with disabilities who are the principal owners with costs incurred from hiring a service provider to remove snow from residential sidewalks and driveways. Rentals are currently ineligible for the Program even though many seniors and people with a disability rent in the City.

Residents can receive a grant of up to \$300 for non-corner lot properties or up to \$400 for corner lot properties with sidewalks on two sides of the property and where both sidewalks are not cleared by the City.

Staff review each application to ensure it meets the eligibility requirements before approval. To be eligible for the Program, Brampton residents must meet the following criteria:

- Own and occupy the property described in this application as my personal residence.
- Be sixty-five (65) years of age or older OR an applicant with a permanent physical disability.
- Have not claimed a snow removal grant for any other property during the same winter season.
- The property is not a condominium dwelling whereby all snow removal is the direct responsibility of the condominium corporation.

### **Current Situation:**

Based on historical Program data and current Census data, it is anticipated that changes to the eligibility would cost an additional \$237,000.

### New Criteria

The following new criteria would include rentals with a resident who is 65 years of age or older or living with a disability:

- Be the principal renter of the property as demonstrated by the rental agreement submitted by the applicant.

The Program would continue to approve one (1) subsidy per season per one (1) subsidy per municipal address, despite the number of residences owned and/or rented.

If the property landlord and tenant both apply, the application submitted by the landlord would be processed first as they are responsible for property maintenance under Property Standards By-Laws. If the landlord does not meet the eligibility criteria, the application submitted by the tenant would then be processed.

**Corporate Implications:**

Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

The annual cost associated with the changes to eligibility for the Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program is estimated to be \$237,000.

**Strategic Focus Area:**

The Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program supports the Health and Well-being of seniors and people with a disability. Expanded eligibility to include rentals would help more seniors and people with a disability.

**Conclusion:**

The number of rental properties in the City accounts for approximately 21.9% of the total household residences. This report includes information regarding potential eligibility changes to the Snow Removal Financial Assistance Program that would include rentals with seniors or people with a disability.

Authored by:

Reviewed by:

---

Shane Loftus  
Manager, Transportation Right-Of-Way & Safety

---

Rob Gasper  
Director, Road Maintenance, Operations & Fleet

Approved by:

Approved by:

---

Marlon Kallideen  
Commissioner, Public Works & Engineering

---

Marlon Kallideen  
Chief Administrative Officer