

Appendix B - draft wording for correspondence regarding snow clearing contractor insurance difficulties

Separate Addressees:

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance of Ontario
Ian McSweeney, Chair, The Financial Services Commission of Ontario
Joseph Carnevale, President, Insurance Broker Association of Ontario
Adam Veldpaus, President, Insurance Brokers Association Hamilton

Content:

Hamilton City Council has recently received a report from the City's Risk Manager outlining the ongoing difficulties our local snow clearing contractors are experiencing with the acquisition of liability insurance at reasonable premium rates and terms. The result of these insurance difficulties is a considerable decline in the availability of snow clearing services to the City of Hamilton as a corporation, to local businesses and public entities, and to residential property owners as service providers exit a market which is no longer profitable, primarily due to the rising cost of insurance.

Local snow clearing contractors have long played an important role in the provision of winter maintenance services at affordable pricing to the City of Hamilton and its residents. With weather extremes becoming increasingly severe, municipalities across the provinces have never been more in need of assistance from private snow clearing contractors. The decline in the availability of private snow clearing services creates a significant challenge for municipalities in the provision of safe mobility routes with all due diligence while at the same time exercising fiscal prudence as operational budgets are stretched ever thinner.

On behalf of the citizens of Hamilton I respectfully urge (entity name) to examine the circumstances of this issue closely and to do anything within your power and mandate to illicit positive change.

We look forward to hearing from you and offer the assistance of the City of Hamilton in this endeavour.

Sincerely,

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor