

Appendix A

1. Budget Recommendations from the 2023 Maclaren study:

15. Fleet budgeting should be revised to have Fleet target a break-even status and charge realistic rates for the use of equipment. This may require some time to achieve.

16. The Winter Control Reserve Fund should remain in place. It should be recognized that winter control expenditures relate strongly to weather conditions, which are unpredictable.

17. The budget from winter control activities (including street sweeping in the spring) should be increased recognizing the average deficit of \$580,000 in the past 9 years. It should be adjusted each future year to recognize inflation, and any further increase in lane kms of roads and sidewalks maintained, unless they are maintained on a cost-recovery basis.

18. Within this amount, allocations should be realistic, particularly the allocation of costs to sidewalk clearing and hired equipment.

2. Winter Weather Facts for Sault Ste. Marie

The 2023 Maclaren study, which included data from 2013 – 2021, presented the following facts:

- In 3 of the last 6 years, Sault Ste. Marie had the highest winter severity index amongst the large northern Ontario municipalities.
- In the 3 years when it was not the highest, it was second-highest in 2 of those years.
- The winter 2024-2025 severity index is not yet available, and
- While snowfall is often used as an indicator of winter intensity, it does not capture the effects of freezing rain and rapid temperature fluctuations. Snowfall has exceeded the 320 annual average for 3 of the last 4 winters.

(Although beyond the study's timeframe, the winter of 2024-2025 saw **482cm** of snowfall, according to data collected by Environment Canada.)