

**2. Motion – Councillor R. King - Salt Use on Roads, Sidewalks and Multi-Use Paths in Ottawa**

**Motion – Conseiller R. King - Utilisation du sel sur les routes, les trottoirs et les sentiers polyvalents à Ottawa**

**Committee Recommendation(s)**

**That Council direct City staff to:**

- 1. conduct a focused review of Ottawa's road salt use, with a specific emphasis on its environmental impact, particularly its effects on local waterways; and**
- 2. report back on the following:**
  - a. The measures taken by the City's Public Works department to ensure salt application aligns with environmental and climate change considerations while maintaining public safety;\**
  - b. Any assessments conducted on the environmental impact of current salt use levels and the mitigation strategies in place;**
  - c. The methods used to monitor the impact of road salt on Ottawa's waterways, including rivers, lakes, and groundwater;**
  - d. The steps taken to mitigate salt runoff into waterways and whether the City filters salt-infused snow at municipal snow dumps to minimize environmental contamination;**
  - e. The feasibility of incorporating road salt management into the Ottawa River Action Plan, given the documented concerns regarding chloride contamination in waterways;**
  - f. That the City's Salt Management Plan be made available online for public access and transparency.**

**Recommandation(s) du Comité**

**Que le Conseil municipal charge le personnel de la Ville:**

- 1. d'effectuer un examen ciblé de l'utilisation du sel de voirie à Ottawa, en mettant l'accent sur son impact environnemental, en particulier ses effets sur les cours d'eau locaux; et**

2. de faire rapport sur les points suivants :
  - a. Les mesures prises par la Direction générale des travaux publics de la Ville pour s'assurer que l'épandage de sel est conforme aux considérations en matière d'environnement et de changements climatiques tout en assurant la sécurité publique;
  - b. Toute évaluation effectuée sur l'impact environnemental des niveaux d'utilisation actuels du sel de voirie et les stratégies d'atténuation mises en place;
  - c. Les méthodes utilisées pour surveiller l'impact du sel de voirie sur les cours d'eau d'Ottawa, notamment les rivières, les lacs et l'eau souterraine;
  - d. Les mesures prises pour atténuer le ruissellement du sel dans les cours d'eau et si la Ville filtre la neige contaminée par le sel dans les dépôts de neige municipaux afin de réduire au minimum la contamination de l'environnement;
  - e. La faisabilité d'intégrer la gestion du sel de voirie dans le Plan d'action de la rivière des Outaouais, compte tenu des préoccupations documentées concernant la contamination des cours d'eau par le chlorure;
  - f. Que le Plan de gestion des sels de voirie de la Ville soit mis à la disposition du public en ligne pour en assurer l'accès et la transparence.

Documentation/Documentation

1. Extract of draft Minutes, Environment and Climate Change Committee, 18 March 2025.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité de l'environnement et du changement climatique, le 18 mars 2025.

2. Members' Motion submitted to Environment and Climate Change Committee, dated 18 March 2025 (ACS2025-OCC-CCS-0033).

Motion d'un membre soumise au Comité de l'environnement et du changement climatique, daté le 18 mars 2025 (ACS2025-OCC-CCS-0033).

Extract of Draft Minutes 16  
Environment and Climate  
Change Committee

18 March 2025

Extrait de l'ébauche du  
procès-verbal 16  
Comité de l'environnement et  
du changement climatique  
Le 18 mars 2025

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Motion – Councillor R. King - Salt Use on Roads, Sidewalks and Multi-Use Paths in Ottawa

File No. ACS2025-OCC-CCS-0033 – City-wide

Ms. Tammy Rose, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services Department (IWS) and Mr. Alain Gonthier, General Manager, Public Works (PW), responded to questions. Following discussion on this item, the Committee Carried the Motion as presented.

**WHEREAS road salt is widely used on roads, sidewalks, and multi-use paths in Ottawa to improve winter safety;**

**WHEREAS excessive road salt use has been linked to environmental damage, including contamination of local waterways, groundwater, and soil, as well as negative impacts on infrastructure and ecosystems;**

**WHEREAS organizations such as the Ottawa Riverkeeper and Ecology Ottawa have raised concerns regarding high chloride levels in Ottawa's water systems and the long-term environmental consequences of road salt runoff;**

**WHEREAS the City of Ottawa is committed to environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and the protection of local ecosystems;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT City staff be directed to conduct a focused review of Ottawa's road salt use, with a specific emphasis on its environmental impact, particularly its effects on local waterways; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back on the following:**

- 1. The measures taken by the City's Public Works department to ensure salt application aligns with environmental and climate change considerations while maintaining public safety;**
- 2. Any assessments conducted on the environmental impact of current salt use levels and the mitigation strategies in place;**
- 3. The methods used to monitor the impact of road salt on Ottawa's waterways, including rivers, lakes, and groundwater;**
- 4. The steps taken to mitigate salt runoff into waterways and whether the City filters salt-infused snow at municipal snow dumps to minimize environmental contamination;**
- 5. The feasibility of incorporating road salt management into the Ottawa River Action Plan, given the documented concerns regarding chloride contamination in waterways;**
- 6. That the City's Salt Management Plan be made available online for public access and transparency.**