

Welland transit services cancelled; public works crews continue to battle whiteout conditions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 24, 2022

Welland, ON – Welland Transit services have been cancelled as of 11:15 a.m. Saturday, December 24. Service resumes December 26 with a Sunday/holiday schedule.

Earlier in the day, Transit operated under a Stop and Stay order, halting buses at the terminal until visibility and road conditions improved. As the weather across the city worsened, and public works crews faced challenging conditions, the City’s Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) decided to cancel service immediately.

“Cancelling transit is in the best interest of everyone, from our operators to the public,” said Steve Zorbas, chief administrative officer. “We know people rely on public transit, and it was not an easy decision to make, but ultimately it was the right one.”

With the cold temperatures arriving, the downtown bus terminal is open as a warming centre today from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and closed Sunday. The terminal reopens Monday, December 26, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For anyone requiring housing needs, please call 211.

Public works crews are challenged with two very different scenarios in the north and south ends of the city. Though the conditions in the north appear favourable, southern circumstances present white-out conditions. Staff will commence full winter operations when it is safe to operate the fleet in these areas. Please be patient.

With drifting snow, Welland Fire and Emergency Services remind everyone to check the vents around their homes to ensure no snow has built up around the vents, which ultimately would cause CO2 to build up in the house.

Public Safety Canada encourages everyone to make an emergency plan and get an emergency kit with drinking water, food, medicine, a first-aid kit, and a flashlight. For information on emergency plans and kits, go to <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca>.

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