

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES Tree Trimming Policy

Policy to provide for the trimming and maintenance of trees, hedges, shrubbery and/or other foliage which may interfere with the safe use of municipal highways or sidewalks. The Town of Fort Frances will enforce this policy on a 'best efforts basis' given the financial and human resources available.

SIDEWALKS:

It is the policy of the Town of Fort Frances that all pedestrian walkways, pathways and thoroughfares, hereinafter referred to as pedestrian walkways, will be free of any impediments from trees, shrubs, hedges or other foliage. All such impediments shall be trimmed no closer than six inches (6") from the abutting pedestrian walkway on a perpendicular plane and overhead branches trimmed to a minimum clearance of seven (7) feet over a pedestrian walkway. Procedures for the required trimming of impediments is as set out in this policy.

HIGHWAYS:

Further, it is the policy of the Town of Fort Frances that all roads, lanes and other public thoroughfares will be free of any tree, hedge, shrub or other foliage that interferes with the safe operation of any vehicle or that may cause damage to any vehicle that is in lawful use of said roadway. All such impediments will be trimmed to the degree necessary to allow adequate sightlines along adjoining streets, boulevards and sidewalks to provide for the safe operation of vehicles. And further to provide for the operation of said vehicles free from potentially damaging overhanging tree branches. Procedures for the required trimming of impediments is as set out in this policy.

FORT FRANCES POWER CORPORATION:

The Fort Frances Power Corporation has a policy governing tree trimming in areas of high voltage primary lines, low voltage secondary and street light wires and the trimming or removal of trees on private property that may involve FFPC services. During the annual inspection of properties Operation & Facilities Division personnel will note any incidents of trees interfering with FFPC infrastructure and will report these incidents to the appropriate personal of FFPC.

PROCEDURES:

1. Each year the Operations & Facilities Division will cause to be conducted, an inspection of all streets, lanes, boulevards and sidewalks to ensure compliance with the standards for trimming trees and other impediments as set out for maintaining standards for pedestrian walkways and municipal roadways as described above.

1.(a) It is acknowledged that trees on boulevards are the property of the Town of Fort Frances. However some of these have been planted by the abutting property owners either with or without the approval of the Town. The same procedures for inspection, Notice to Comply and trimming by municipal forces will apply, however if there is any issue whereby the property owner denies ownership, expense for trimming or removal will be carried out at the municipalities expense.

2. The person(s) responsible for inspections will compile a list of the offending properties, street address or other identifying descriptions, the date of the inspection, time of the inspection and the nature of the impediment.

3. The inspection list compiled in Step 2 above will be forwarded to the Town of Fort Frances By-Law

Enforcement Department for that Departments follow-up.

4. Upon receipt of the inspection report(s) described in Step 3 above, the By-Law Enforcement Department will compile the appropriate “Notice Of Tree Trimming Requirement” and “Notice To Comply”. This notice will contain the following information;

- a) The date and time of the inspection.
- b) The description of the impediment.
- c) The standard to which the impediment is to be trimmed.
- d) The owner has thirty (30) calendar days to comply.
- e) If not in compliance after thirty (30) days, the trimming will take place by the municipal work force and the expense incurred on behalf of the property owner will be invoiced to said property owner.

Said notice shall be forwarded to the assessed owner forthwith with a confirmation the notice has been mailed provided to Operations & Facilities Division.

On the 31st day, or as soon thereafter as practical, the By-Law Enforcement Department will confirm whether the trimming policy has been complied with and if it has not, give approval to the Operations & Facilities Division to complete the work.

Operations & Facilities Division will arrange to complete the required trimming as soon as practical.

DUE DILIGENCE REPORTING:

Members of the following Town of Fort Frances Departments are expected to be particularly cognizant of impediments as described for sidewalks and roadways:

Operations & Facilities	Fort Frances Power Corporation
Police	Fire
Parks	By-Law Enforcement

All personnel are requested to report trimming requirements to the front office staff of Operations & Facilities Division for coordination with By-Law Enforcement.