

# City Hall and other facilities closed as Welland declares significant weather event

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2022

**Welland, ON** – City Hall and other City facilities, such as the community centres, WIFC, libraries, and museum, are closed Friday, December 23, due to inclement weather. Determinations of closures for Dec. 24 will be made mid-day today.

The City’s Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) determined early Friday morning that closing facilities is the best course of action for everyone. With flash freezing expected mid-morning and blizzard-like conditions later in the day, road conditions are expected to be hazardous.

Blizzard conditions with wind gusts of 100 to 120 km/h with snowfall amounts of 15 to 30 cm by Sunday, December 25. Wind chill values will be near minus 20, and a flash freeze, producing icy and slippery surfaces, will likely occur.

“Our team made this decision after reviewing all of the information available to us regarding operations and the forecast,” said Steve Zorbas, chief administrative officer. “It’s not an easy decision to close facilities, but as an employer, ensuring our employees are safe is a priority. Many of our staff will be on the roads today and through the weekend, keeping routes open and travel available for those who require it. We cannot thank them enough for their work, often working hours through the night.”

The City declared a significant weather event at 7 a.m. December 23. Declaring a significant weather event allows public works the flexibility to schedule staff and pivot resources to meet the demands of the weather event. Crews were on the road applying a sand/salt mix in preparation for the storm early this morning.

With the cold temperatures arriving, the downtown bus terminal is open as a warming centre from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, 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 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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