Nicola Valley – Service Area #14

Stakeholder Information Package

YRB has chosen to reach out to stakeholders with information about the upcoming winter instead of holding our annual in-person stakeholder meeting as we have done in the past years. This is a result from the limited accomodations in Merritt due to the influx of displaced residents from the November 2021 Atmospheric river event. Our hope is to give our Stakeholders an outline of our winter plans and to invite you to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns moving into the 2022 – 2023 winter season.

<u>Overview</u>

YRB Nicola is an employee owned Company that looks after Service Area #14 under contract with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Service Area #14 encompasses:

- 3 Municipalities (Merritt, Lytton and Logan Lake)
- 4 Electoral Areas
- 1,400 kms of Road
- 750 kms of Highway
- 16 Rest Areas
- 315 Bridges and Structures
- The Lytton Reaction Ferry

Winter Planning

YRB will once again employ Northwest Weathernet to do weather forecasting tailored to Service Area #14. NW Weathernet has a proven track record of pinpoint accurate storm forecasting in previous years. YRB will also consult Environment Canada and local forecasts to get the most accurate information for planning and dispatch purposes.

A general outlook regarding the 2022-2023 winter season is a La Nina temperature cycle, for the third year in a row. This typically correlates to above average amounts of precipitation in the winter (for BC), especially for the SW portion of the Province, and slightly below average to near average temperatures. Likely to see more frequent large snow events through the season due to the above average precipitation and below average temperatures and its very possible that we will see some late season snow events (April-May) so this has the potential to be a long season ahead.

Equipment / Resource Deployment

This season YRB will have an additional Single axle and 4 Tandem axle plow trucks over last years levels. Our fleet consists of 114 pieces of heavy equipment:

- 54 Plow Trucks (+5 new this year)
- 5 Tow Plows
- 4 Snow Blowers
- 6 Graders
- 25 Loaders

Service Delivery

- 24 hour/7 days a week coverage throughout the winter
- Continue dedicating 4 additional shifts specifically to school bus routes
- YRB prioritzes winter response based on serving roads with highest volumes of traffic along with speeds

Personnel

- This year we anticipate being fully staffed by November. We will be welcoming 20-25 experienced operators to our crews to ensure we are fully staffed this season. YRB is again looking at using local snow removal contractors to supplement our own equipment during significant snowfall events.
- Continue to use our own Traffic Control division with much success. We will continue to build our team for the winter months.

Technology

- The majority of our plow units are outfitted with GPS
- GPS includes winter performance tracking system (WPTS)
- Additional lighting and reflective tape on plow units

Materials & Liquids

- Salt and Sand are stockpiled in strategic locations throughout the Service Area
- Ice control - YRB uses salt and other road deicing chemicals including calcium, brine and beet juice when temperatures allow.
- Sand is placed on roads to help restore traction
- All winter sand produced to the MOTI specifications

Communications / Social Media

- Please visit Drive BC for up-to-date road conditions
- If you need to contact YRB at any time you can call the office at 250-315-0166 or our 24 hour answering service at 1-888-899-9854. The staff can help direct your call or pass on a message.
- If you prefer, you can contact us by email at nicola@yrb.ca.
- YRB is active on Social Media as well, please follow us on:
  - Facebook @YRBNicola
  - Twitter @YRB Nicola

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read this information package. Please feel free to give us a call if there is anything you would like to discuss further, we value your feedback.