

June 19, 2026

Hon. David Piccini
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor, 400 University Ave
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

Re: Protecting Municipal Winter Maintenance Workers

Dear Minister Piccini,

On behalf of Good Roads' member municipalities and First Nations, I am writing to support the legislative proposals advanced by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) in its February 5, 2026, letter concerning the safety of municipal winter maintenance operators. Our Board of Directors has reviewed and endorsed these proposals.

There has been a troubling and escalating pattern of interference, harassment, and threats directed at the operators who keep our roads passable during significant weather events, including obstruction of active equipment and explicit threats of violence. While the Occupational Health and Safety Act protects workers within the employer relationship, it was not designed to address threats originating from the public. Unlike police, firefighters, and paramedics, municipal public works professionals lack equivalent protection under Ontario law. Closing this gap is an opportunity for the province to provide clear leadership.

Good Roads supports each of the three measures AORS has proposed:

1. **Enhanced protections under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act**, so that during declared Significant Weather Events, interference with municipal winter maintenance vehicles and operators (including subcontractors) is treated as seriously as interference with police, fire, or paramedic services.
2. **Public-safety interference provisions** modelled on Ontario's Slow Down, Move Over legislation, formally recognizing the essential safety role of municipal roadside workers.
3. **Minimum following-distance requirements for snowplows**, drawing on Manitoba's Bill 38, requiring 30 metres behind snowplows on roads posted at 80 km/h or lower, and 100 metres where limits exceed 80 km/h.

Each proposal is grounded in existing precedent and designed to be clear and enforceable. When operators are forced off the job during a storm, roads go uncleared and emergency response suffers, so protecting these workers also protects the communities they serve. We would welcome the opportunity to meet at your convenience to discuss how Good Roads can support this work. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.
Sincerely,



Paul Ainslie
President, Good Roads

cc:

Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Karla Musso-Garcia, President, AORS

Good Roads