

# Does the City Need a Better Cold-Weather Warming Shelter Plan?

By **Megan Pounder** - January 19, 2020



City Council will discuss the state of the current cold-weather warming shelter plan during Monday evening's meeting, following the recent ice storm that left Saultitians without power for an extended period of time.

Coun. Matthew Shoemaker, seconded by Coun. Donna Hilsinger, is bringing forward a motion asking City Staff to review the warming-shelter plan currently in place and recommend any changes based on the needs of the community, which became evident during the recent, year-end weather event that left chunks of the Sault without power for up to 36 hours.



This plan, developed in 2018 after being brought forward to Council by a concerned Shoemaker, wasn't triggered during this event as the temperatures prior to it were relatively mild and not the -40 degrees celsius required (according to Environment Canada standards) to activate it.

"Staff at the City of Sault Ste. Marie recognized the need for a warming shelter despite the relatively mild weather and, in partnership with the Water Tower Inn, provided a space for community residents to find

warmth,” the resolution states.

“The situation experienced in the last days of 2019 and the first days of 2020 identified the need for an update to the City of Sault Ste. Marie’s warming shelter plan.

“Now Therefore Be It Resolved that staff review the warming shelter plan currently in place and recommend the necessary adjustments based on the needs of the community that have become evident as a result of recent events.”

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Megan Pounder is an enthusiastic individual who's always striving to learn and grow. She's been a part of the SaultOnline team since May 2018. She has an Advanced Diploma in Journalism: Online, Broadcast and Print from Loyalist College. Along with her diploma, she has some freelance video journalism and social media experience. Growing up in Prince Edward County sparked her enthusiasm for all things nature. When she isn't reporting, you can find her reading, jamming out to music, or looking for new adventures.