



MEDIA FACT SHEET

Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation's newest snowplow trucks

The following are just some of the features of the province's newest snowplow trucks, which the City of Prince Albert will receive in January 2007.

HIGH-TECH EFFECIENCY FEATURES

- **On-board control computer:** This device can track how much sand or salt has been applied by a truck, which optimizes its use.
- **Pre-wetting technology:** Before sand or salt is spread on a road, it's treated with a solution to help it stick to the road so that it's less likely to blow off in high winds and become ineffective.
- **Power float:** This device carries about half the weight of the front snowplow blade, which reduces wear and tear on pavement and the blade itself. This reduces both road and blade maintenance costs.
- **Auger box:** Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation applied farm technology to improve the box on the back of a snowplow truck that holds the salt and sand. Instead of a traditional conveyor chain to move the material in the box, an auger was developed. Using this auger helps prevent corrosion in the box. That's because the auger is fully contained and doesn't allow sand or salt to be inadvertently deposited along the truck frame or other components, which means fewer repairs for corroded parts.

PATENT

Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation has patents on its **hydrodrum technology**. A **hydrodrum** is a device on a snowplow truck that can spread material evenly over a surface, which results in a consistent and efficient application. This device is primarily used to spread sand during summer construction, but can be used to spread sand or salt in the winter.

SOUGHT-AFTER TECHNOLOGY

- The hydrodrum has been sold to a private firm in the Northwest Territories in 2005 and 2006, two Saskatchewan RMs in 2006 and the Government of Manitoba in 2004.
- Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation partnered with the federal government on a snowplow truck for Prince Albert National Park in 1999.

THE SNOWPLOW TRUCK FLEET

About 40 of the 290 snowplow trucks in the Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation's fleet have the technology outlined above. Eventually more snowplow trucks in the fleet will have this newer technology as older ones are replaced as part of normal equipment upkeep.

SUMMER OR WINTER

This snowplow truck can also be used during summer highway construction to spread sand, haul gravel or help fill potholes, which reduces the number of vehicles the department needs overall.