From frozen pipes, to roof collapse and ice dams, Canadians regularly experience property damage from freezing temperatures and winter storms. The following provides info on key areas that may require attention in order to reduce the risk of snow and ice damage to your home.

- Make sure gutters are clean from debris and properly drain.
- Make sure to seal any exterior air leak that could expose interior piping to cold air.
- Disconnect garden hoses and shut indoor valves that control water flow to the outside of the house.
- Drain the pipes between indoor valve and outdoor faucet.
- Cut back any overhanging vegetation that could contribute debris to roof drainage systems.
- Explore inside your attic for any penetrations that could leak warm air into the attic. Also check to see that there are no big gaps in the insulation.
- Examine roof edges for evidence of ice damming.
- Determine if the slope of your roof is susceptible to snow and ice build up (the flatter the roof, the greater the risk).
- Snow can collect behind roof obstructions and put stress on roof structure.

The cost for recovery of the 1998 eastern ice storm, one of the costliest natural disasters in Canadian history, was $5.4 billion.

See more at www.iclr.org