

February 21, 2018

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I fully support the motion put forward by Councillors Stevens and Bresciani to require property owners to clear their sidewalks of snow within 48 hours of a snowfall. I am unable to attend the February 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Making our sidewalks more accessible will benefit all Regina residents but is especially critical for seniors, people with disabilities and those who cannot afford a car whose physical health is put at risk on a daily basis when having to navigate snowy and icy sidewalks. I have looked at the City's Official Community Plan and see that policy 5.27 states that the City will "Develop a citywide pedestrian strategy to provide a continuous high-quality, connected, safe, and universally accessible walking experience." I don't see how the City could have this policy while still allowing for a significant percentage of the City's sidewalks to be obstructed or downright treacherous for long stretches of time.

I have lived in several other Canadian cities that have snow clearing requirements similar to the one put forward by Councilor Stevens and Bresciani and never heard anyone complain about having to clear their sidewalks – it was just part of winter in the same way you mow your lawn in the summer. Also, those other cities typically receive significantly more snow than Regina (no one would clear snow with a broom). While some people may complain at first, if approved I fully expect that within 10 years residents will look back and find it hard to imagine there was a time when the City did not require clear sidewalks.

In my opinion the current voluntary approach is not working and the motion put forward is the simplest, most cost effective way to make Regina a safer and more accessible City. We have to do better!

Sincerely,

Morgan Tunzelmann