

Presentation to City Council: February 26, 2018

Re: Safe and Accessible Sidewalks

By John Bishop

Hello Mayor Fougere and City Councillors,

My name is John Bishop and I am a resident of the Heritage neighbourhood. As an active member of my community, I travel regularly throughout the Heritage neighbourhood and downtown on my scooter with my service dog Tally.

My regular routes of travel include:

- West along Victoria Avenue to the downtown YMCA or Knox Met Church
- East along Victoria Avenue to Conexus Credit Union or the 7/11
- West along 11th Avenue to the Cornwall Centre or the Regina Public Library downtown branch

Most of the residential sidewalks I travel regularly are never cleared of snow. I hope that this bylaw amendment will change that.

When there is deep snow, my scooter gets stuck and I have to ask others for help. I can't always see when there is deep snow coming ahead. When I do, I will turn around, cross the street, or drive on the road – and there are safety risks for all of these options.

Clear sidewalks make it easier for everyone who uses them, including:

- people with strollers
- people with mobility issues including those who use scooters, wheel chairs, or walkers
- letter carriers
- people without strollers or mobility issues who can still slip on snowy or icy sidewalks

If this amendment passes, and it leads to people clearing their sidewalks more regularly, it will help me in the following ways:

- It will enable me to take the regular bus more often, and rely less on Para Transit, which isn't always available
- I will have to spend less time on the phone with the City informing them of uncleared sidewalks
- It will be less cold on my dog's feet and allow me to go for longer walks with her
- I will be able to go out more often, which will prevent me from getting bored and stir-crazy in winter

For all of these reasons, I support this bylaw amendment, and I hope you will too.

Thank you for listening, and I am open to your questions.

-John Bishop