



**Presentation to Regina City Council  
Safe and Accessible Sidewalks Amendment  
February 26, 2018  
Shayna Stock, Executive Director, Heritage Community Association**

Good evening Mayor Fougere, City Councillors, and City Administration,

I am here on behalf of the Heritage Community Association and its Board of Directors to express our support for the Bylaw amendment proposed by Councillors Stevens and Bresciani to improve the safety and accessibility of our sidewalks.

Being a centrally located neighbourhood with many seniors, children and youth, and lower-income residents, Heritage has a lot of pedestrians using its sidewalks every day. Many of these pedestrians are pushing baby strollers or using scooters or wheelchairs to get around. Snow-covered and icy sidewalks pose an unnecessary threat to all pedestrians – especially those who rely on mobility aids to get around.

The Core Neighbourhood Sustainability Action Plan (endorsed by the City of Regina in 2012) calls on us to “improve the quality of the pedestrian realm and encourage more pedestrian traffic.” It asks us to make our streets and sidewalks safer and more welcoming to pedestrians and cyclists. We feel that this amendment will help to do that.

The City’s Official Community Plan calls throughout for safe and accessible sidewalks, as part of its Priorities to (a) Develop complete neighbourhoods and (b) Create better, more active ways of getting around. Specifically, it promises to:

- “Establish all-season design and maintenance priorities for roads, sidewalks and pathways to ensure the transportation network provides safe travel, access and mobility, including for... key pedestrian and cycling routes.” (p. 35, Section D3 Transportation, Goal 1: Sustainable Transportation Choices)
- “Develop a citywide pedestrian strategy to provide a continuous high-quality, connected, safe and universally accessible walking experience.” (p. 36, Section D3 Transportation, Goal 5: Active Transportation)

The small change that this amendment seeks would be a step toward these broader goals. In the long term, we would love to see the City take more responsibility for clearing sidewalks, as it does with roads, as a public service.

We believe that this amendment can help to engage community members in supporting one another. If it passes, we are willing to help communicate to our residents the importance of helping out their neighbours who are incapable of clearing their own sidewalks. Many residents already do this. We are also prepared to organize volunteers to help clear sidewalks for residents who can’t find a neighbour or friend to do it for them. We also encourage the City to consider developing or supporting low-cost options for sidewalk clearing, for those unable to do their own.

The proposed amendment is not asking for a lot. It is a small but important step toward making our city more pedestrian-friendly. We support it fully, and we hope you will too.