



華埠商業促進區

**Chinatown  
District BIA**

Business Improvement Area

Suite 208, 328 Centre Street SE, Calgary, AB, T2G 4X6



2018-06-06

The City of Calgary  
Ward 7 Councillor Druh Farrell  
Historic City Hall  
P.O. Box 2100, Station 'M' #8001B  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Re; Improving Accessibility and Reducing Injuries through Snow and Ice Control, TT2018-0467

Dear Councillor Farrell

Further to Calgary City Council's 2016 approved 'Step Forward' pedestrian strategy, the Chinatown community strongly favours and, in particular,

- enhancing snow and ice control operations to reduce obstructions at transit stops, road crossings and along sidewalks especially in the Chinatown community and up along the Centre Street Bridge into the Crescent Heights community where a significant number of Chinatown's workforce park and walk to work;
- increasing snow clearing response time to P1 (within 24 hours of a snow event) on Chinatown sidewalks as this is a high pedestrian activity area for both the working and visitor pedestrian but most importantly for the senior resident population;
- investigating ways to encourage property owners to undertake prompt snow and ice clearing from sidewalks, support those not able to carry out snow clearing, and improve bylaw enforcement on non-compliance.

We encourage City Council to support City Administration's recommendations as outlined in the 'Improving Accessibility and Reducing Injuries through Snow and Ice Control, TT2018-0467' report; specifically, to propose a budget commitment through the One Calgary process for the 2018-2019 SNIC season (and through 2019-2022) which would enable these 'Step Forward' actions.

Rationale:

The Chinatown community supports these 'Step Forward' Actions and Administration's recommendations as:

- Chinatown's 2,500 population is significantly seniors who live, socialize and walk every day in this community. Many of these seniors have physical challenges to walking and several live with pedestrian accessibility challenges that are compounded by the use of wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, etc. that is difficult in snow obstructed sidewalks and road crossings;
- Chinatown is a high pedestrian, commuter corridor up across the Centre Street Bridge and to the numerous Calgary Transit's bus and BRT stops along Centre Street;
- Calgarians have long expressed the need for Chinatown to be 'Clean and Safe'; and,
- The Chinatown merchants, property owners, residents and visitors have voiced their demands that Chinatown be 'Clean and Safe'.

Recent Incidences

This past February 2018

- a Chinatown senior citizen lose his life crossing the intersection at Centre Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South by a left turning vehicle. The sidewalk and intersections at the time had both snow debris and ice which likely deterred the gentleman from observing vehicles in the intersection. Some believe that a clear sidewalk and road crossing might have given the citizen more time and chance to observe hazards in the road crossing.
- On the southeast corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Centre Street, the building at this intersection was vacant (i.e. no business operator) and significant snow accumulated and froze into a hard, slippery sidewalk corner. Senior and accessibility challenged residents found it extremely difficult to walk on this corner. Calls to 3-1-1 did not result in snow removal until it was informally escalated to Calgary Roads.
- The 301 BRT transit stop on the southwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Centre Street was covered with significant snow accumulation that it was challenging for transit commuters to on-and off load from the BRT buses.
- The Calgary Transit bus stop on the northeast corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Centre Street had significant snow mounds as the high snow fall was pushed and left to accumulate around the bus shelter.

- The southeast intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Centre Street had snow plowed mounds that covered the road crossings resulting in pedestrians climbing over unsafely to cross the street. Wheel chairs, walkers, and strollers were unable to make this crossing.
- Significant snow had accumulated along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE covering the flower planters, street furniture, etc. Businesses and senior residents tried to shovel the snow accordingly but because of the wide sidewalks, a lot of the snow was left in mounds.

These incidents were all reported to either 9-1-1 or 3-1-1.

On behalf of the Chinatown District Business Improvement Area, its Board of Directors, and the Chinatown community overall, we urge Calgary City Council to support snow removal in 'high use' and 'high priority' areas of this community.

Respectfully,



Terry Wong  
Executive Director, CDBIA