

Good morning, my name is Jack Smart a long-time member of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments relating to the City of Calgary's Snow and Ice Control policy.

The Advisory Committee on Accessibility has been working with Calgary Roads for many years to help bring forward proactive improvements to the City's Snow and Ice Control policy. As I am sure you are aware having an effective and efficient snow and ice control program is necessary to:

1. Allow the municipality to function under normal winter weather conditions
2. To reduce the snow and ice hazards of winter conditions for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians including those with disabilities and
3. To provide reasonable winter mobility conditions on Calgary infrastructure including roadways, sidewalks and pathways.

Snow clearing and removal of the downtown core has improved over the past years which enables a number of citizens to safely and efficiently access work, stores or services needed for everyday life. Outside of the downtown core the snow and ice clearing has not been as efficient. Persons with disabilities due face more issues and challenges related to snow ploughing and removal which does limit their abilities and opportunity to function in normal winter weather conditions. The main areas we would like to see improvements are as follows:

1. Wheelchair Curb Ramps – are the ramps constructed at all intersection locations where sidewalks abut to curbs and gutters and at Community Mailbox locations. Often times after a snow fall, snow gets shoveled into the base of the curb ramp at the gutter which creates a dam and a barrier for those needing to access the curb ramp. The sidewalk is clear of snow, but not the wheelchair curb ramp making it difficult or impossible for

persons with mobility devices or vision loss to safely cross the street. It is very important to inform Roads staff, their contractors and business owners and residents that clearing the wheelchair curb ramp is vital to offering a barrier-free end-to-end path for people with disabilities.

2. Windrows – those nasty continuous piles of snow along a roadway as a result of snow ploughing by a truck or grader. This by-product of efficient snow ploughing routines does create challenges for people to maneuver over when crossing the street. The Roads Department has improved clearing at bus stops, but windrows at crosswalks and in the wheelchair curb ramp area continue to create a barrier for people with disabilities. If the sidewalks are clear and if the wheelchair ramp base is clear what about the windrows that exits across the pathway? And who's responsibility is it to clear these. Roads Department? Business owners? Residents? It is more efficient just to plough the streets, but removing the windrows would greatly improve mobility for all pedestrians.
3. Crosswalks - a marked part of a road where pedestrians have right of way to cross. Whether they are controlled with overhead lights or uncontrolled with just signage and road markings, snow removal from Crosswalks continues to be a challenge for pedestrians with disabilities. Who is responsible to clear the areas in front of crosswalks is it the Roads Department? Or the business or property owner? I believe this confusion results in a lack of efforts. Perhaps as crews are clearing the bike lanes, they can also provide clearing efforts to curb ramps and crosswalks. Or

reminders to business owners of their responsibility of the property in front of their store. Sometimes being on a corner adds to the confusion on who is responsible for snow removal and to what boundary. Perhaps an awareness campaign would help resolve some of these issues.

4. Policy inclusion – The Calgary's Snow and Ice Control Policy was last amended in 2011. We would like to see the snow removal at wheelchair curb ramps and crosswalks included in the policy so that it is clear to Calgary Roads Department, their contractors, business owners and residents of the added responsibility these areas require on a continued basis.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our concerns in making Calgary a more accessible community throughout the year.

