



Walk In Nanaimo

Keeping Pedestrians Safe: Improving Nanaimo's Sidewalk Snow Clearing

Presentation to Governance and Priorities Committee
Monday, October 28, 2019



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- **Vision:** Nanaimo is a safe, connected and inviting place to walk for all.
- **Mission:** To promote a culture and create an environment where pedestrians are acknowledged, respected and feel safe walking at all times.



*Child walking on the road
in a school zone*



It's about Safety

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- Clearing sidewalks of snow and other debris is a **SAFETY** issue.
- City has a responsibility to ensure its streets are safe for all users and modes, *not just for drivers*.



Pedestrian walking in street on Bowen Rd.



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Past Approaches Put Citizens at Risk

Improvements &
action needed in 3
areas:

1. Improve and
Expand Public
Outreach
2. Enforce existing
by laws
3. Lead by Example



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Citizen using mobility device in traffic.



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Public Outreach

- Contact / meet with key commercial property owners, Chamber of Commerce, SD 68 to explain expectations
- Liaise with neighbourhood associations, service clubs & others to support residential property owners
- Broader and more proactive communications efforts through regular and social media
- Stop messaging that ignores pedestrians



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Messages that put pedestrian safety last

Why does the snowplow push all of the snow and or heavy slush into the front of my driveway?

When the crews plow the roads, they open the road with one pass down the middle and then they begin widening the roadway and plowing the snow to the curb or shoulder of the road. This gives you a safe surface to travel upon and also exposes the catch basins that will need to be accessible for when the snow begins to melt. Unfortunately, when widening the road, snow does get plowed into the frontages of driveways and onto sidewalks. A tip to help you when clearing your driveway, shovel as much of your snow onto your property and whatever else is shovelled onto the road, put it on the side of the driveway that is upstream from the direction of the plow, this then minimizes the amount that gets plowed into your driveway.

Who is responsible for clearing the snow off sidewalks?

Clearing snow off sidewalks is the responsibility of the owner of the property on which the sidewalk fronts according to City Bylaw 5000, Section 22(1). Snow must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall. With approximately 325 kms of sidewalk in the city, we do not have enough staff resources available to clear the sidewalks in addition to plowing the roads. The City does clear sidewalks around parks, bridges and major City facilities. The City also clears streets, as best as we can, from curb to curb to provide room for people to walk on the edge of the street where needed, if and when safe to do so.



Enforce Existing By Laws

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- Public statements from City noted there would be no enforcement of snow on sidewalks
- Sidewalks across the City were unsafe and impassable for weeks

- 1993 Snow Removal Policy establishes priorities for enforcement
- Clear communications + enforcement policy = objectivity and fairness





City of Nanaimo Leadership

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City of Nanaimo needs to lead by example:

- Clear its own sidewalks & pathways
- Stop plowing snow onto sidewalks
- Reallocate resources to make pedestrians a priority



Unplowed sidewalks at City facility



City plowing snow onto sidewalk & crosswalk on a bus route



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Keeping Pedestrians Safe

- Sidewalk snow clearing is about ensuring the safety of ***all*** Nanaimo citizens
- Many other cities have found cost effective, efficient & safe solutions to keep sidewalks clear
- Existing practices are inequitable and discriminate against our most vulnerable road users
- It is time to change City of Nanaimo approaches and practices



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Thank you
Questions?