

From: [Inclusion](#)
To: [Shanna Fitzgerald](#)
Subject: FW: (EXT) Fwd: Letter to City Council re: sidewalk snow clearing
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:43:47 AM

This just came in this morning.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Inclusion <inclusion@stjohns.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: (EXT) Fwd: Letter to City Council re: sidewalk snow clearing

Good morning,

In the email I sent to you yesterday I forgot to request that my letter be included in Tuesday's meeting.

Thank you,

Lisa Walters

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lisa Walters [REDACTED]
Date: September 29, 2020 at 12:59:17 AM NDT
To: "inclusion@stjohns.ca" <inclusion@stjohns.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter to City Council re: sidewalk snow clearing

Below is an email that I sent to the City of St. John's that I would also like to share with the Inclusion Advisory Committee:

Hi,

My name is Lisa Walters and I'm a disabled resident of St. John's who advocates for better accessibility in our city on my social media accounts called Access YYT. I missed out on the rally outside City Hall today because I wasn't feeling well, but I just wanted to send along a message to let you know how upset and scared I am for my future (and the future of every disabled resident and every pedestrian) in this city if you don't start taking sidewalk snow clearing seriously. This is absolutely an issue that NEEDS some of those millions from your rainy day fund.

Access to safe sidewalks isn't some sort of luxury. It's a right. I'm a wheelchair user and

if you don't put more money and effort into clearing sidewalks I'm legitimately going to be trapped in my home for MONTHS. Could you imagine not being able to go anywhere within the city you live in whenever there is snow on the ground? Could you imagine how isolating, depressing and dangerous that could be for you? If you could no longer navigate the city well enough to get groceries, go to doctors appointments, take part in city events, visit friends and family?

I am one of the lucky ones in that I have a husband and friends with cars who will help me get to the car and will drive me where I need to go. But even as one of the lucky ones I can be stopped in my tracks when I get to my destination and there is no accessible curb cuts or sidewalk for me to get into the building. I have experienced instances of parking in an accessible parking spot downtown but being blocked in by icy snowbanks and then having no way to get anywhere because the sidewalks were a dangerous obstacle course. Imagine how much harder it is for disabled residents of our city who have to rely on public transportation or who are also pedestrians? It's near impossible. It's so incredibly dangerous. And it's so very disrespectful.

And it's not just about residents of St. John's with disabilities. It's about every pedestrian in this city who is being forced out into the middle of busy streets in stormy conditions due to your inaction here. People are being injured and killed because of this.

Show us that you're actually committed to making this city accessible. Show us some real life examples of that dedication to accessibility that you claimed to have while talking to local media outlets following my post about the pedestrian mall going viral. You can't just put effort into accessibility when it's trending. And it's more than a few ramps being put down when someone complains. This has to be a lifelong commitment, and let's be real, this city is failing miserably at it.

I want to be able to focus on the positives and to celebrate accessibility rather than needing to be negative, but there isn't much to praise here. Thank you to Ian Froude, Maggie Burton and Sheilagh O'Leary for caring about accessibility. But to the rest of council, do better. You owe safe and clear sidewalks to all residents of St. John's. It's honestly a bare minimum.

Sincerely,

Lisa Walters
AccessYYT

Disclaimer: This email may contain confidential and/or privileged information intended only for the individual(s) addressed in the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any other distribution, copying, or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify me immediately by return email and delete the original message.

Any correspondence with employees, agents, or elected officials of the City of St. John's may be subject to disclosure under the provisions of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, S.N.L. 2015, c.A-1.2.