



*Saskatoon  
Community  
Clinic*

**Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd.**

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News Release  
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**Saskatoon streets risky for pedestrians: health care co-operative calls for change.**

*Saskatoon:* A Saskatoon primary health care co-operative is asking the City of Saskatoon to improve safety for pedestrians. Community Health Services Saskatoon Association (CHSA) today presented a brief to the city's Traffic Safety Committee calling for adoption of a "pedestrian charter", the development of a pedestrian safety public awareness campaign and improved enforcement by city police.

"We are very concerned about the number of people who are injured or killed in the simple act of trying to cross the street. We want to raise awareness about pedestrian safety and encourage our municipality to take measures to make Saskatoon more "pedestrian friendly", said CHSA (Saskatoon Community Clinic) Board Member Nancy Carmichael. "We believe that adoption of a pedestrian charter in Saskatoon would establish the importance of walking as a healthy, cost efficient and environmentally sustainable form of transportation."

Five hundred and twenty five pedestrians were injured and three were killed while trying to cross Saskatoon streets from January 2002 to December 2006, according to SGI data. Thirty two percent of these accidents happened to pedestrians while they were crossing the street with the right of way.

"While pedestrians do need to be careful when crossing the street, drivers clearly need to be more respectful of the pedestrian right of way. Allowing a pedestrian to cross the street when the walk light comes on is not a courtesy - it is actually the law", said Carmichael.

In addition to a number of recommendations, CHSA's brief *Pedestrian Safety in Saskatoon* includes pedestrian accident statistics, research on initiatives underway in other municipalities, and results of an informal survey conducted of Community Clinic clients and the public.

Many of the accidents are happening on 22<sup>nd</sup> street and in the downtown area. There are nine intersections in Saskatoon where there have been between five and ten pedestrians hit by vehicles during the past five years. One is on the east side, three are downtown and

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five are on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> streets. The locations are: Arlington and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, First Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> street, 23<sup>rd</sup> street and Second Avenue, 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Third Avenue, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West at Avenue H, Avenue N, Avenue P and Avenue W and 20<sup>th</sup> Street at Avenue P.

“We are asking the city to improve pedestrian safety at these and other intersections. We believe that upgraded crossings, improved pedestrian safety awareness and increased enforcement are all required to solve the problem.” said Carmichael.

CHSA is a membership-based co-operative which provides primary health care services to approximately 20,000 clients through the Saskatoon Community Clinic on Second Avenue and Community Clinic - Westside on 20<sup>th</sup> Street.

A copy of the brief *Pedestrian Safety in Saskatoon* is available on CHSA's website at [www.saskatooncommunityclinic.ca](http://www.saskatooncommunityclinic.ca) Please contact Ingrid Larson, Saskatoon Community Clinic Membership Director at 652-0300 or Nancy Carmichael, CHSA Board Member at 374-9476 for more information.

