



*Saskatoon
Community
Clinic*

Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd.

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Saskatoon Community Clinic Urges Caution for Pedestrians and Drivers

Saskatoon: The Saskatoon Community Clinic is holding its second annual Pedestrian Safety Walk this Friday, September 26th to encourage drivers and pedestrians to slow down and take care when driving and walking on city streets.

“As a primary health care co-operative we want to encourage our clients and the public to walk for the health benefits – but at the same time we are concerned that 94 Saskatoon pedestrians were struck by vehicles and two were killed in 2007, and another 54 pedestrians have been hit so far in 2008,” said Nancy Carmichael, Saskatoon Community Clinic Board Member. “It’s clear that we need a greater emphasis on public education and awareness for both drivers and pedestrians.”

Members and the general public are invited to participate in the walk which will begin at 11:30 a.m. from the Community Clinic building located at 424 1st Avenue North. An open discussion about pedestrian safety issues in Saskatoon will follow.

“There are a couple of areas where drivers and pedestrians really need to be cautious. Too many people are still being hit when they are crossing at intersections where they have the right of way – 26 last year alone, said Ms. Carmichael. “We also need to encourage pedestrians to take care and cross safely. In 2007, 17 pedestrians were hit when they ran into roadways and 15 were hit crossing between intersections.”

“In addition to being concerned about the number of pedestrians struck by vehicles, we often hear about “near misses” experienced by pedestrians, said Ms Carmichael. “Almost everyone we speak to has a story about a close call that they or a family member has experienced. We want to encourage individuals to report these, as well as all accidents, to the Saskatoon Police Service”

According to data from SGI, 509 pedestrians were struck by vehicles in Saskatoon between January 2003 and December 2007. One hundred and fifty-nine were hit while crossing at an intersection where they had the right of way and 32 were hit crossing at an intersection when they did not have the right of way. Eighty-one were hit running into roadways and 60 were hit crossing between intersections.

Teens and young adults were most at risk of being hit by a vehicle, particularly 18 – 21 year olds and 14 – 17 year olds who had a combined total of 115 pedestrian accidents, more than one fifth of all accidents that took place in 2003-2007. More accidents happen on a Friday than any other day, particularly in late afternoon or evening.

“YOUR HEALTH CARE CO-OP”

A total of 19 charges were laid resulting from pedestrian accidents in 2007, ranging from failing to yield to a pedestrian, failure to yield right of way, and driving without due care and attention.

Participants in Friday's walk will be provided with copies of a Pedestrian Safety Audit, which they can use to evaluate intersection safety, safety tips for pedestrians and drivers and suggestions on how we can all help make Saskatoon a safer city in which to walk.

This year's pedestrian safety walk follows up on a walk held last fall and the Clinic's April 2007 brief *Pedestrian Safety in Saskatoon*, available on the Clinic's website at www.saskatooncommunityclinic.ca

Community Health Services Saskatoon Association (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 20th Street.

For more information please call Nancy Carmichael, CHSA Board member, at 374-9476 or Ingrid Larson, Community Clinic Membership Director at 652-0300.

