



*Saskatoon  
Community  
Clinic*

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

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For Immediate Release

News Release

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### **Saskatoon Community Clinic Sponsors Pedestrian Safety Walk**

*Saskatoon:* The Saskatoon Community Clinic is holding a Pedestrian Safety Walk on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about the need for pedestrian safety, highlight Saskatoon's planned creation of a "Pedestrian Charter", and to thank the City of Saskatoon for proclaiming October 5<sup>th</sup> as a Day of Action for Pedestrian Health and Safety.

Members and the general public are invited to participate in the walk which will begin with a news conference at Saskatoon City Hall, 3rd avenue doors, at **10:30 a.m. Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**, followed by a walk around the city hall block. A meeting and social will follow at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue United Church starting at 11:30 a.m. Mayor Don Atchison will be in attendance.

The Saskatoon Community Clinic welcomes the creation of a Pedestrian Charter as a tool that reflects a commitment to walking as a safe and convenient mode of urban travel. "The values and principles set out in the charter could well guide urban planning with respect to pedestrian safety for decades to come," said walk co-organizer Nancy Carmichael, Saskatoon Community Clinic board member. "A Pedestrian Charter is an important acknowledgement that pedestrian safety is an issue which deserves everyone's attention. We are all aware of the tragic impact that pedestrian accidents have on the health of the community."

Another goal of the walk is to encourage both drivers and pedestrians to slow down and take care. In 2009 there were 127 pedestrian injuries and deaths in Saskatoon as a result of collisions with motor vehicles, compared to 97 in 2008 and 95 in 2007. Each year one or two people are killed in pedestrian collisions in Saskatoon. Already there have been 71 accidents in 2010, according to data provided by Saskatoon Police Services to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The walk is being held in memory of the late Jim Osborne, member of the Community Clinic's Seniors' Advisory Council, which first began advocacy on the pedestrian safety issue five years ago after a number of Community Clinic staff and patients had been hit

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"YOUR HEALTH CARE CO-OP"

by vehicles or had near misses. These incidents, along with the Clinic's locations on busy 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 20<sup>th</sup> Street, brought into focus the need for a public discussion on what could be done to improve pedestrian safety in our city.

The Clinic's brief *Pedestrian Safety in Saskatoon* was presented to the City of Saskatoon's Traffic Safety Committee and other partners in April 2007. Through discussions and research with the City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Police Services and SGI it was determined that there were a number of key areas where improvements could take place with respect to infrastructure improvements, research and reporting, policing and public education. The report analyzed five years of pedestrian incidents (528 people injured or killed) in Saskatoon, identified problem locations and proposed a number of solutions.

Since that time, a number of the report's recommendations have been implemented. Last summer and fall the Saskatoon Community Clinic co-sponsored the Heads Up Pedestrian Safety Campaign, which featured billboards, bus ads and radio advertising.

This year's pedestrian safety walk is the third held by the Saskatoon Community Clinic, a primary health care co-operative serving more than 20,000 clients a year. Health promotion and disease prevention are an important part of the Clinic's mandate.

"The health benefits of an active lifestyle which includes walking and cycling have been well documented. We want to encourage everyone to be active and safe by observing the rules of the road and taking time to be attentive whether you're a pedestrian, riding a bike or driving your vehicle. A pedestrian friendly culture and landscape will help promote both the health and environmental benefits of active transportation," said Kathy Storrie, co-organizer and past president of the Community Clinic.

The walk is being co-sponsored by the following organizations: RoadMap 2020 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Seniors Fitness Association, and Sask Walk for Health.

***For further information please contact:***

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Please see our website at: <http://www.saskatooncommunityclinic.ca/publications.htm> for copies of a pedestrian charter and other information on pedestrian safety.