



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

Councillor Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

PE 26.5

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Brenda Patterson
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Dear Ms. Patterson,

The City of Toronto aims to be one the world's great walking cities. The Toronto Walking Strategy builds on Toronto's rich pedestrian tradition to develop a culture of walking in our City and promotes the important health, social and environmental benefits associated with walking. The Toronto Pedestrian Charter, the first in North America, sets out key principles to ensure that walking is a safe and convenient mode of transportation in the City.

I recently attended the Walk 21 conference in New York where experts from all over the world, including Toronto, shared creative ideas about how we can build walking-friendly communities and promote the many benefits of walking. In one presentation a doctor from England described a new approach to treating a variety of diseases, mostly notably diabetes, in which a "prescription" for walking is included in the treatment plan. Clearly walking is a key part of building a healthy and vibrant City.

Recent concerns about walking in City parks have elicited a variety of opinions how the City should be balancing the need to ensure parks are open and accessible to all residents with the importance of regulating commercial activities in public parks. This is an important discussion and I am glad to hear so many Torontonians engaging in a dialogue about the importance of walking in our City.

As Toronto has now committed to the renewal and revitalization of our pedestrian environments through both the Walking Strategy and the Pedestrian Charter, I believe it is the appropriate time to clarify the current by-law regulating walking in parks as part of the implementation of the Strategy, including a possible review of applicable permit charges and our approach to enforcement. I look forward to working together on this.

Sincerely,

Paula Fletcher
Councillor, Ward 30

cc: Parks and Environment Committee

