



The Republic Residents' Association

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November 20, 2020

Dear Toronto City Council Members:

The Republic Residents' Association represents the interests of residents of the "vertical community" at the south end of the northeast quadrant of Yonge and Eglinton, namely the owners and tenants at 25 Broadway, 7 Broadway, 70 Roehampton, 30 Roehampton as well as the students and staff of North Toronto Collegiate Institute.

Our community strongly supports the expansion of winter clearing of sidewalks across central Toronto.

Even in normal years, this is the responsible and just thing to do as it allows people in communities like ours – communities with thousands of pedestrians of all ages who live, work and attend schools in our immediate area, as well as local residents with mobility issues – to get around safely during the winter months.

But especially during these extended months of the heightened COVID-19 pandemic it is absolutely critical to keep our sidewalks navigable for everyone and accessible for seniors, parents with children, adolescents attending school and people with accessibility needs.

Ensuring safe passage to local businesses, institutions and essential service providers will reduce the rate of slip-and-fall injuries and accidents caused by pedestrians being forced onto the roadway to avoid snow/ice-covered, treacherous sidewalks. Accordingly, universal sidewalk clearing will inevitably reduce the stress on currently overburdened hospitals.

Beyond the health and safety considerations during this physically/emotionally/financially taxing time, clearing our sidewalks makes economic sense: it will undoubtedly minimize the City's liability payouts for slip and fall (and worse) injuries and will help out our struggling business and workplaces, allowing residents to shop, work and get to school safely, on time – with one fewer risk to their well-being.

Respectfully,

Geri Berholz and Terry O'Sullivan
Co-Chairs

