



Feb 25, 2021

Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
Attn: Committee Clerk taac@toronto.ca

Toronto City Hall : Accessibility eScooters Presentation
Subject: eScooters Debate

First, I would like to thank the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee Members and the Standing Committee Members for this opportunity. I am being honest with you, when I tell you that I've been working on this presentation for weeks. Trying to use the right words and statistics to convince you that eScooters should not be allowed in the City of Toronto.

I, as many of my fellow advocates, who will also be speaking, have accumulated a mountain of information, newspaper and other media stories with evidence on this topic.

I can sit here and spend my time informing you of what we have found, but I don't think that it would be the best done by my fellow advocates who, will do an excellent job. I want to relate some facts that should be remembered after this meeting. Last summer, in Calgary, over 700 emergency room injuries were eScooters related. Everything from the rider being injured, due to road conditions or involving pedestrians. What happens when the rider of the eScooters can simply cause the injury and they ride away, leaving the injured person to deal with the circumstances Now just consider, if Calgary experienced 700 cases, with the population of Toronto, what would those numbers would be?

Then there is the legal side of things, not to go into detail, unless you want to, as to the increase in insurance claims the city will be responsible for, which ultimately comes down to costing the taxpayer in the end. Even with liability exemptions, there still will be city staff mired in related paperwork. No matter what promises or responsibilities the eScooters companies offer, it won't work for people who are disabled, blind or injured. There are too many variables.

There are excellent reasons why cities like, Copenhagen, Chicago and Miami, just name a few have banned eScooters from their sidewalks and streets.

In conclusion, there are many other parts to this debate, which will be covered by the other presenters. Being a person with a disability, Polio, I use a 3-wheel mobility scooter. I'd like to relate to this committee is my personal experience, distress, and frustration that I encountered with the eScooters last February, while vacationing in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

I have submitted 2 photo documents, I hope they been distributed to everyone. On the first **sheet #102**, these photos tell a story of a city that has been overrun by eScooters. No regard as to where the renter leaves it, whether it causes a hazard, injury or dangerous predicament. The photos tell the whole story of the dangerous conditions that will result by allowing the eScooters, not to mention the increase if injury to people with disabilities, or blind or sight impaired, who because by the very nature of the eScooters will have an increased chance of injury or worse. What recourse do they have?

The second **sheet, #103** SHELL Oil Company, very recently, has invested in promoting their own eScooters. With a slick campaign on YouTube and LinkedIn. Notice, Item 'A', that the rider on the eScooters is the only person on the path/sidewalk, an ideal environment. Item 'B' shows the rider using a helmet, which begs the question, "will riders of these eScooters be required to wear a Helmet?" The companies promoting these eScooters are not presenting the whole picture of pros and especially the cons of the eScooters.

We ask you to consider all the facts, presented by my fellow advocates and myself remembering that other large cities have banned the use of eScooters. Remember that all of you in attendance who are able-bodied, your status is temporary. At some point in your life, either through injury or illness, experience a life changing event. What I and my accosiates want is to prevent these events relating to eScooters. So I strongly urge this Coommittee, Council members and Mayot Tory to keep Toronto 'safer' by banning eScooters.

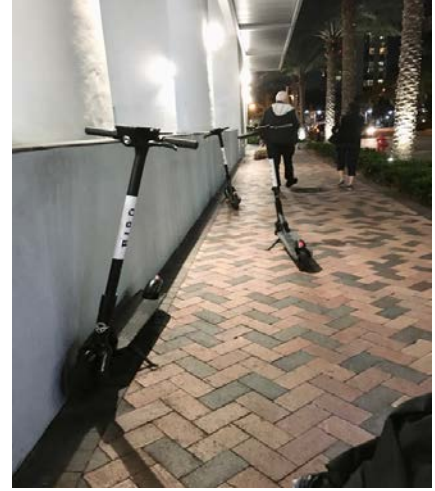
Thank you,

Edward "Eddie" Rice

Chair: CWDBBC

Canadians with Disabilities Sub-Committee of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights

Feb 2020 Ft. Lauderdale, Florida



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Shell has entered the eScooter market with a slick YouTube presentation. But look closely in to what the presentations consists of; **A)** No people on the path **B)** Rider uses Helmet....will the renter wear one? Also, notice lights(??) and reflectors are located at the bottom, impossible to see at a distance **C)** SHELL Oil Company goes into the eScooter manufacturing and sales, where are the regulations?



A screenshot of a Facebook post. In the top-left corner, a red letter 'C' is enclosed in a white box. The post is from Rahul Malhotra, Head of Brand Strategy & Stewardship at Shell, posted 1 day ago. The text of the post reads: "Delighted to extend the #Shell brand into this fast growing, cleaner mode of urban transport! The Shell Ride SR5-S E-Scooter! Enabled by close collaboration between the Shell and licensee (Lotus) teams. Safe, digitally enabled, electric, super stylish. Available only in the US for now, with other North American markets following soon. Order on Amazon! #MakeTheFuture #ElectricMobility #UrbanTransport Satish Murthi Mark Bramall C". Below the text is a video thumbnail showing a close-up of a blue e-scooter with a play button icon.

B

