



**Corporation of the Township of
Esquimalt**

**The Esquimalt
Pedestrian Charter**

**Created by the Esquimalt Environmental Advisory
Committee**

Approved by Esquimalt Council on April 2, 2007

The Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter

A **pedestrian** is a person moving from place to place, either **by foot or by using an assistive mobility device**. Pedestrians include people of all ages and abilities and residents of and visitors to Esquimalt. In order to travel safely, conveniently, directly and comfortably, pedestrians require an urban environment and infrastructure designed to meet their travel needs.

Walking is the most ancient and universal form of travel. It is also an important form of exercise and recreation. Every personal trip involves walking, alone or in combination with taking public transit, driving or cycling.

In adopting **The Esquimalt Pedestrian Charter**, Esquimalt Council recognizes the benefits of walking as a key indicator of a healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable community and acknowledges the universal rights of people to be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces at anytime. As we move toward becoming a more sustainable community, Esquimalt is committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity. Esquimalt respects the following strategic principles:

1. Increased inclusive mobility

People in our community have the right to accessible streets, squares, buildings and public transport systems regardless of their age, ability, gender, income level, language, ethnic, cultural or religious background, strengthening the freedom and autonomy of all people, and contributing to social inclusion, solidarity and democracy.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Ensures safe and convenient independent mobility for all by providing access on foot or with an assisted mobility device for as many people as possible to as many places as possible particularly to public transport and public buildings
- Integrates the needs of people with limited abilities by building and maintaining high-quality services and facilities that are socially inclusive

2. Well designed and managed spaces and places for people

People in Esquimalt have the right to live in a healthy, convenient and attractive environment tailored to their needs, and to freely enjoy the amenities of public areas in comfort and safety away from intrusive noise and pollution.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Designs streets for people and not only for cars, recognizing that streets are a social as well as a transport space and therefore, need a social design as well as engineering measures. This can include reallocating road space, implementing pedestrian priority areas and creating car-free environments to be enjoyed by all, supporting social interaction, play and recreation for both adults and children
- Provides clean, well-lit streets and paths, free from obstruction, wide enough for their busiest use, and with sufficient opportunities to cross roads safely and directly, without changing levels or diversion
- Ensures seating and toilets are provided in quantities and locations that meet the needs of all users
- Addresses the impact of climate through appropriate design and facilities, for example shade (trees) or shelter.
- Designs legible streets with clear signing and on-site information to encourage specific journey planning and exploration on foot or with an assisted mobility device.
- Values, develops and maintains high quality and fully accessible urban green spaces and waterways.

3. Improved integration of networks

Our community will strive to have a network of connected, direct and easy to follow walking routes which are safe, comfortable, attractive and well maintained, linking their homes, shops, schools, parks, public transport interchanges, green spaces and other important destinations.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Builds and maintains high-quality networks of connected, functional and safe walking routes between homes and local destinations that meet community needs
- Provides an integrated, extensive and well-equipped public transport service with vehicles which are fully accessible to all potential users
- Designs public transport stops and interchanges with easy, safe and convenient pedestrian access and supportive information

4. Supportive land-use and spatial planning

Esquimalt residents have the right to expect land-use and spatial planning policies which allow them to walk to the majority of everyday services and facilities, maximizing the opportunities for walking, reducing car-dependency and contributing to community life.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Puts pedestrians at the heart of urban planning. Gives slow transport modes such as walking and cycling priority over fast modes, and local traffic precedence over long-distance travel
- Improves land-use and spatial planning, ensuring that new housing, shops, business parks and public transport stops are located and designed so that people can reach them easily on foot or with an assisted mobility device.
- Reduces the conditions for car-dependent lifestyles (for example, reduce urban sprawl), re-allocate road space to pedestrians and close the missing links in existing walking routes to create priority networks

5. Reduced road danger

Residents of Esquimalt have the right for their streets to be designed to prevent accidents and to be enjoyable, safe and convenient for people walking – especially children, the elderly and people with limited abilities

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Reduces the danger that vehicles present to pedestrians by managing traffic, (for example, by implementing slower speeds), rather than segregating pedestrians or restricting their movements
- Encourages a pedestrian-friendly driving culture with targeted campaigns and enforce road traffic laws
- Reduces vehicle speeds in residential districts, shopping streets and around schools
- Reduces the impact of busy roads by installing sufficient safe crossing points, ensuring minimal waiting times and enough time to cross for the slowest pedestrians
- Ensures that facilities designed for cyclists and other non-motorized modes do not compromise pedestrian safety or convenience

6. Less crime and fear of crime

Esquimalt residents have the right to expect an urban environment designed, maintained and policed to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Ensures buildings provide views onto and activity at street level to encourage a sense of surveillance and deterrence to crime
- Conducts pedestrian audits by day and after dark to identify concerns for personal security and then target areas for improvements (for example, with brighter lighting and clearer sightlines)
- Provides training and information for transport professionals to increase awareness of the concerns of pedestrians for their personal security and the impact of such concerns on their decisions to walk

7. More supportive authorities

Our community has the right to expect authorities to provide for, support and safeguard their ability and choice to walk.

Esquimalt supports and encourages planning, design and development that:

- Commits to a clear, concise and comprehensive action plan for walking, to set targets, secure stakeholder support and guide investment and includes the following actions:
 - Involves all relevant agencies (especially transport, planning, health, education and police), at all levels, to recognize the importance of supporting and encouraging walking and to encourage complementary policies and actions
 - Consults, on a regular basis, local organizations representing people on foot and other relevant groups including young people, the elderly and those with limited ability
 - Collects quantitative and qualitative data about walking (including the motivations and purpose of trips, the number of trips, trip stages, time and distance walked, time spent in public spaces and levels of satisfaction)
 - Integrates walking into the training and on-going staff professional development for transport and road safety officers, health practitioners, urban planners and designers
 - Provides the necessary ongoing resources to implement the adopted action plan
 - Implements pilot-projects to advance best-practice and support research by offering to be a case study and promoting local experience widely
 - Measures the success of programs by surveying and comparing data collected before, during and after implementation

8. A culture of walking

Our community has a right to up-to-date, good quality, accessible information on where they can walk and the quality of the experience. People should be given opportunities to celebrate and enjoy walking as part of their everyday social, cultural and political life.

Esquimalt supports and encourages programs that:

- Actively encourage all members of the community to walk whenever and wherever they can as a part of their daily lives by developing regular creative, targeted information, in a way that responds to their personal needs and engages personal support
- Create a positive image of walking by celebrating walking as part of cultural heritage and as a cultural event, for example, in architecture, art-exhibitions, theatres, literature readings, photography and street animation
- Provide coherent and consistent information and signage systems to support exploration and discovery on foot or with an assisted mobility device including links to public transport
- Financially reward people who walk more, through local businesses, workplaces and government incentives