



December 24, 2023

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa ON K1P1J1

### ***Snow Removal on Flora and Corktown Footbridges' Eastern Stairs***

We applaud the City's decision to clear the snow on the Flora and Corktown footbridges' eastern stairs. The change in policy has already resulted in easier and safer access for the hundreds of people who use the footbridges every day.

In previous winters, Flora and Corktown's stairs were blocked off and pedestrians were required to take the ramp to cross the bridge. While for a single trip the extra time was only a few minutes, over the course of a winter most users would gain several hours by not having to use the ramp. Also, availability of the stairs means there is less cyclist-pedestrian conflict.

We understand that the snow removal is being done on a trial basis. We strongly urge you to make the snow removal a permanent proposition. Our Community Association's view is that the evaluation outcomes should also include making these two bridge clearances part of the Winter Quality Maintenance Standards on an ongoing basis; however, should the evaluation process of the pilot contain any consideration of reverting back to the blocked stairways, please consult with us.

Although we have not checked with the other community associations whose residents use the two footbridges, we are of the view that they also would strongly support the new policy.

During the design of the Flora Footbridge, OOECA urged that the City clear the stairs and we were disappointed that the decision was the opposite. But now, the City has recognized that pedestrians should be given year-round access to the stairs. Congratulations but please make the change permanent.

Bob Gordon  
President, OOECA

Cc Councillor Shawn Menard (Shawn.Menard@ottawa.ca)  
John Crump, GCA (jpcrump57@gmail.com)

Louise Lapointe, ASH ([info@ash-acs.ca](mailto:info@ash-acs.ca))  
Richard Slowikowski, OSCA ([richardslowikowski@rogers.com](mailto:richardslowikowski@rogers.com))  
Centretown Citizens Community Association ([cca@centretowncitizens.ca](mailto:cca@centretowncitizens.ca))  
Chad Findlay ([wmqs\\_rnqeh@ottawa.ca](mailto:wmqs_rnqeh@ottawa.ca))