



SNOW MOLE Questionnaire 2024

Age-Friendly Winter Walkability and Pedestrian Safety Audits for Older Adults and Other Valuable Vulnerable Pedestrians

SNOW MOLES are volunteers who report on what it is like to walk outside on a winter day. You are invited to ensure healthy, accessible, and safe winter walking conditions in Ottawa, by becoming a **SNOW MOLE** and completing a Winter Walkability and Pedestrian Safety Questionnaire. Your answers will be part of a **2024 Winter Walking in Ottawa: Snow Mole Report** shared with the City of Ottawa for better understanding of the safety of winter walking in Ottawa.

Instructions for Age-Friendly Ottawa SNOW MOLES

1. When you go out for an errand or a walk, **please use the Snow Mole Questionnaire** to note features and conditions that are “safe” (e.g., a bench cleared of snow) as well as “unsafe” (e.g., snow piled up in intersections).
2. We encourage you to **take and submit photos** of both safe and unsafe features and conditions. If possible, include street signs in your photo to locate the photo. Send photos to snowmoles@coaottawa.ca
3. **Complete** the questionnaire online (coaottawa.ca/snowmoles) **or** drop off/mail it to: The Council on Aging of Ottawa (815 St. Laurent Blvd. #217, Ottawa, ON K1K 3A7).

A. Questions about your winter walk and conditions

Date (day/month/year): _____

Neighbourhood of walk audit (e.g., Glebe, Kanata, Orléans): _____

B. Snow Mole Checklist: Please complete as appropriate. Feel free to leave questions blank that don't apply to your walk.

1. On your walk today, was the surface safe to walk on? **If No, note location with nearest address, number and street name.**

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| a) sidewalk/pathway | Yes | No , location: _____ |
| b) street | Yes | No , location: _____ |
| c) stairs/steps | Yes | No , location: _____ |
| d) ramps | Yes | No , location: _____ |

2. If you are walking on a street or road, is it because (please circle all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| a) there is no sidewalk or pedestrian path | Yes | No |
| b) there is too much snow and/or ice on the sidewalk to safely walk, or to push my stroller, walker, or wheelchair | Yes | No |
| c) the road/street has been plowed and is safer to walk on | Yes | No |

3. As part of your walk, are you using a crosswalk or intersection to cross the street?

Yes No

If **Yes**, please answer the following questions:

a) if there is a pedestrian walk button, can you reach it easily? **Yes No**

b) do you have enough time to cross the street safely? **Yes No**

c) are the curb and street clear enough of snow and ice
that you can cross the street safely?

Yes No

4. Were there high snow banks that made your walk more difficult today?

Yes No

5. Was bench seating available to rest on your route?

Yes No

If **Yes**, is it clear of ice/snow?

Yes No

6. Did you use stairs or steps (excluding at your residence) on your route today?

Yes No

If **Yes**, were there handrails for the stairs/steps?

Yes No

7. Did you use a ramp (excluding at your residence) on your route today?

Yes No

If **Yes**, were there handrails for the ramp?

Yes No

8. Did you fall during your Snow Mole walk audit today?

Yes No

If **Yes**,

did you fall on stairs, steps, or a ramp?

Yes No

did you injure yourself in any way?

Yes No

did you go to the hospital emergency?

Yes No

what was the reason for your fall? _____

9. Does fear of falling in winter sometimes keep you from going out to walk?

Yes No

10. Do you have any other safety concerns not mentioned already, or any other comments?

C. Important Questions about You: Please complete as appropriate.

Are you over 65?	Yes	No
Are you walking alone?	Yes	No
Do you use a mobility aid (e.g., cane, walker, wheelchair)?	Yes	No
Do you use ice grips/cleats on your boots?	Yes	No
Do you use walking poles?	Yes	No

Do you have any condition or impairment that might affect your ability to walk safely in winter? **Yes No Prefer not to say**

Please describe, if you are comfortable doing so (e.g., low vision, reduced hearing, etc.)

Photos are encouraged. Please send to: snowmoles@coaottawa.ca

"If you see something, say something." Karen Scott, Ottawa Disability Coalition
Please report any hazards or problems needing immediate attention to 311.

**Thank you for being a Snow Mole
and returning this completed
Winter Walkability and Pedestrian Safety Questionnaire!**

**The Council
on Aging
of Ottawa**



**Le Conseil sur
le vieillissement
d'Ottawa**