



SNOW MOLE Questionnaire 2022

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 Audit. Your answers will be part of a **2022 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. 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?
 - a) sidewalk/pathway **Yes No**
 - b) street **Yes No**
 - c) stairs/steps **Yes No**
 - d) ramps **Yes No**
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**

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 Audit!**