

CHARLENE [REDACTED]
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March 12, 2019

District of Central Saanich
1903 Mount Newton Cross Road,
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A9

Dear Mayor Windsor and Councilors,

My name is Charlene Froom and I am writing to you as a follow up to the letter from Adam Olsen regarding the New BC Building Code that came into effect as of December 10, 2018. Specifically pertaining to the removal of the requirement for Accessible Parking and working together with the local Municipalities to ensure properties and businesses have accessible parking that work for all our community members.

The removal of this requirement from the code puts the responsibility for this squarely on the Municipalities, Cities and other zones to come up with their own bylaws. The BC Provincial Government is suggesting that the National Building Code and Accessibility Handbook could be a guideline to be used going forward. Unfortunately, neither of these provide for Accessible parking standards that benefit all users.

I have lived on the Saanich Peninsula since 1973 and the last 35 years as a person who uses a wheelchair. Two years ago, I sustained a second spinal cord injury and have severe shoulder damage due to over use. This now requires me to use a van with a side ramp for transportation. I have come to realize that the accessible parking on the Peninsula is in most cases unsuitable and in many cases unavailable. There is no consistent standard and while some designated spaces are provided to the old BC Building Code of 2012 most are little more than regular parking spots with the International Accessible Parking symbol painted in them. While these spaces may be suitable for someone who has difficulty walking or other health issues that require proximity to buildings they do not work for vans with ramps and just barely work for cars that need to unload wheelchairs and walkers. Because of this I am unable to use any of them for my activities, grocery shopping, eating out and medical appointments. I try to find end spaces without curb barriers, (this is a safety issue as this mean opening the ramp and

exiting into traffic.) or street parking without plants, posts or bicycle racks that will allow space for my ramp to open. I am unable to use any of the spaces at any of the grocery stores so I try to find off site parking and purchase what I can carry.

I am enclosing pictures of my recent attempts to park in various locations in Central Saanich and Saanichton. I have parked in the designated space with no cars beside me. As you will see, the ramp comes just to the edge of the painted line, not allowing me space to get out of or back into my van if there are other cars parked. Both Fairway and Thrifty foods had items placed next to the Accessible space so I couldn't even try to park. I do carry orange cones with me for the times I unable find anywhere that will work and I need to take two spaces. (I am very sheepish about having to do this!) This too is not fool proof as the cone has been driven over and thrown into the bushes. When this occurs, I must wait for the other vehicle to be moved or call someone to rescue me.

While I appreciate that this letter sounds like it is all about me, I am in contact with many other disabled people in our community that are running into the same problems and there will only be an increasing need as our population grows and ages. The economic and social cost to our communities is great.

My hope in writing to you is that The District of Central Saanich will follow the lead that the District of North Saanich has already taken and adopt bylaws that will:

1. Provide spaces that are wide enough for side ramp vans (4.9M) either as single spaces or joint spaces with a common aisle in the middle to equal this measurement as well as the current 4M sizes for regular accessible spaces.
2. To require accessible spaces be clearly marked with the Internationally recognized blue painted symbols and signage.
3. To monitor new and existing parking to make sure these bylaws are enforced.

Below is a link to the City of Richmond's proposed requirements that set a very good example of what can be done as well as a one to a report prepared by David Willows, a father to a young son with severe Cerebral Palsy who also lives on the Peninsula and has extensive knowledge on this issue.

https://www.richmond.ca/shared/assets/4_Proposed_Amendments_Accessible_Parking_Requirements_PLN_07171851094.pdf

<http://drcvictoria.com/news-events/david-willows-2018-report-on-accessible-on-street-parking-now-available-for-public-reading/>

Both David and I are eager to help make our local Municipalities and the Province of BC an example of how this can be done right. I would be more than happy to meet with you at any time to further discuss this very important issue.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns. I look forward to your response.

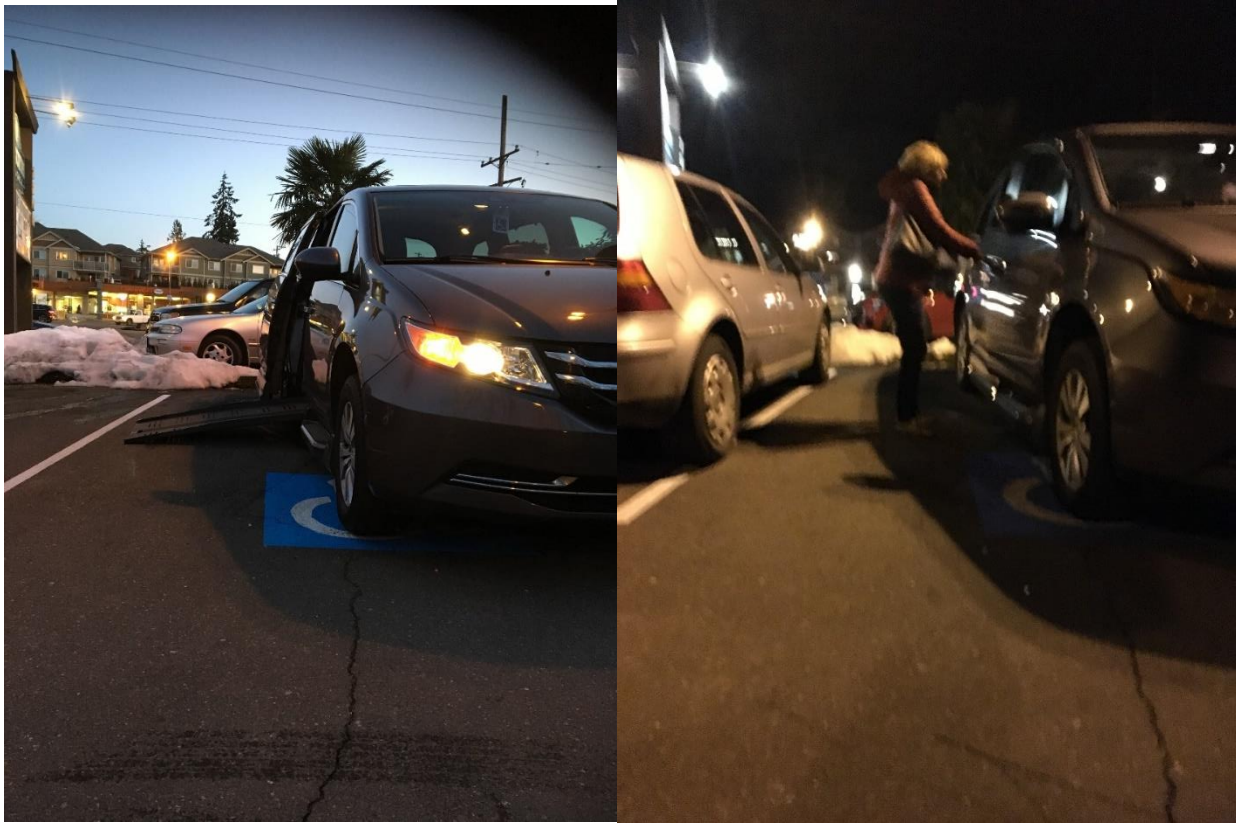
Sincerely,

Approved

CHARLENE [REDACTED]

These pictures are at Blue Coyote. The ramp come to the line of the “Accessible “ space. With a car parked in the next stall there was NO room for me to get back into my Van. I had to ask someone to move my van for me.

There are many more examples in Central Saanich but they are all the same outcome. 3.7 meters don't work!



This is at the Municipal Hal



Fresh Cup in Saanichton



An example of an aisle between Accessible spaces

