

Paul Kiidume
Property Manager
Trinity Development Group Inc
Northumberland Mall
1111 Elgin Street West
Cobourg, ON
K9A 5H7

October 8, 2021

Dear Paul Kiidume,

Vision Loss Rehabilitation Ontario (VLRO) supports individuals who are blind or partially sighted across Canada and serve the local Cobourg community through our office at 159 King Street, Peterborough. We would like to notify you of some accessibility issues at the Northumberland mall for residents and visitors with sight loss. We are requesting that enhancements be made to ensure all residents have safe and equal access to community goods and services.

Residents of Cobourg who are blind or partially sighted have encountered barriers getting to the mall. Specifically, lacking safe, accessible walkways from city sidewalks to the mall sidewalk. These barriers are creating safety hazards and challenges to independent travel.

1. **No direct accessible path:** An accessible path of travel allows people to move from one point to another safely. Currently there are no safe accessible paths from city sidewalks to the Northumberland property from the north and east sides. Specifically, from Rogers Street there is no pathway from the sidewalk to the main building. Pedestrians must walk on the grass, which is not possible in the winter or compete with traffic in the vehicular lane. Similarly, the "new pad" area where Starbucks is located, the walkway connecting this area ends at a grassy area instead of connecting with the main sidewalk. **We recommend a straight path of travel be implemented from each side of the plaza. This path should connect with city sidewalks and be free of stairs and have a firm surface. These paths of travel should be separated physically from vehicular traffic. They should not require pedestrians to navigate large open expanses where vehicles are in motion.**

2. **Lack of curb cuts:** Pedestrian pathways should be designed to be accessible to everyone, including people impacted by blindness. **We recommend depressed curbs that provide step-free access for people who use mobility**

aids (e.g., walkers and wheelchairs or strollers) at pedestrian crossings. The depressed curbs should be properly identified, giving a person with blindness sufficient warning that the walkway is about to end, and the road is about to begin. An attention TWSI should be used to alert people impacted by blindness to the presence of the curb and should be set across the entire width of the depressed curb.

VLRO welcomes further conversation with you about these accessibility barriers at the Northumberland Mall. Should you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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