



# Espanola

## Active Community Charter

In an active community, the physical and social environments support and enable healthy, active living by providing opportunities for people to engage in daily physical activity.

An active community is created when community stakeholders, decision-makers, interest groups and residents place value on and work towards: the health, safety and quality of life of all individuals; environmental sustainability; and equal access to all for opportunities to be physically active.

An active community is vibrant and economically successful because it encourages healthy activity, social interaction and citizen engagement.

### To create an active community, we respect the following principles:

- **Policies** exist that promote active living at workplaces, child-oriented settings and in community decision making.
- **Planning** decisions place importance on people-powered travel and include smart growth principles.
- **Community Design** includes mixed uses, and aims to decrease urban sprawl and increase public green space.
- **Infrastructure** provides opportunities for active living and sustainable mobility.
- **Partnership and Collaboration** with stakeholders, including:
  - Government
  - Health Sector
  - Schools/Education
  - Law Enforcement
  - Faith Communities
  - Environmental, Health, Walking/Cycling and Accessibility interest groups
  - Municipal Staff
  - Real Estate/Developers
  - Economic Development and Business
  - Residents
  - Community Service Groups
- **Education and Awareness** so that the benefits of building an active community are communicated to a variety of sectors.

### Our work towards building an active community is based on the following values:

**Quality of life** • We value quality of life for all residents and believe it is a key element of social and economic growth.

**Accessibility** • We believe in removing physical and social barriers to physical activity so that opportunities are available to all.

**Environmental Sustainability** • We value the health of the environment and recognize the link between a healthy environment and a healthy community.

**Health** • We value active living for the health of the community.

**Community Safety** • We value safe routes and infrastructure that support community participation in active living.

**Community Cohesion and Vitality** • We believe that an active community encourages and facilitates social interaction and local economic vitality.

**Inclusion** • We believe that all community members should be able to fully participate in active living within their families, organizations, and community.

An active community encourages and facilitates active living and supports community health, vitality and safety. It will increase walking and cycling, decrease car dependence and traffic congestion, lead to cleaner air and support tourism. Such an environment improves the quality of life for all community members and contributes to vibrant, liveable communities.

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O: 04/2010  
R: 12/2010

Adopted by Council on January 11, 2011

  
Mayor Mike Lehoux

