



20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Jacky Kennedy - Transcript

Hi, this is Jacky Kennedy from Toronto, Canada

I'm the former Director, Canada Walks and the Active School Travel national lead – with Green Communities Canada

I'm currently retired

My Vision of the world of walking in 2040!

In 2040, if I'm still around, I'll be 89! If that's the case then I hope that I'm still able to walk, preferably unaided by mobility devices. As we age we realize how important the ability to continue walking is and its positive impact on our mental and physical health. Seniors living in walkable neighbourhoods are much more likely to have friends, socialize outside their homes, and stay connected to their community. Today, humanity is facing so many challenges but I believe we can turn these into opportunities. The COVID-19 global pandemic has exposed many flaws in the way we live our day-to-day lives, especially how much we have under appreciated and neglected the concept of living locally, and relying on walking and the walking environment to get to local destinations. Our new reality can become our chance to change direction, especially with respect to our changing climate. I'm inspired by the growth of the '15-minute city', a concept which can be applied not just to cities but to local neighbourhoods too. Plotting the amenities available within a 15-minute walk can identify missing elements and services which can be quickly put in place. For example, here in Toronto this summer the City, after 10 years of procrastination over expanded spaces for active travel, installed many kms of dedicated bike lanes, extended sidewalks and provided space for outdoor dining patios – complete streets sprung up literally overnight! Imagine what we can achieve over the next two decades if we make climate change, health and safety our priorities when planning and reimagining our communities, putting walking at the top of the list. This is my wish for the future, a future which belongs to our grandchildren. Let's start planning now for the next 20 years of walking!