



November 25, 2024

City Council
City of Morden
100 – 195 Stephen Street
Morden, MB R6M 1V3

Subject: Request for Review of Suncatch Plaza Street Closures

Dear City Council,

On behalf of the Morden Chamber of Commerce and the local business community on Stephen Street, we are writing to express concerns regarding the ongoing street closures at Suncatch Plaza. The Chambers actions are initiated by concerns from 23 businesses that approached us; this concern has met the necessary criteria of our advocacy framework, therefore we are following up with Council.

Our mission is to connect people, businesses, industry, and community. As the voice of business, we care about these issues and are devoted to supporting local businesses, helping them evolve and grow.

The businesses along Stephen Street have approached us for assistance in discussing the impact that the street closures are having on their operations. While they are fully supportive of closing the area for events such as the Farmers Market or the Friday evening Suncatch Sounds, they ask that the Council reconsider keeping the street open when no events are taking place.

Businesses have shared that there is clear evidence of decreased foot traffic and lower sales during weeks when the street is closed, with several businesses receiving complaints from customers about access issues. While the original intent of these closures was to increase activity in the downtown area, the past two years have shown that this goal has not been achieved. Alternatively, the closures are negatively affecting the business community.

They believe that the Suncatch Park area provides sufficient space for smaller events, and closing 8th Street only during major events would strike a better balance between supporting local businesses and fostering community activities.

We respectfully ask the Council to consider closing the street for events only, rather than on a permanent or extended basis. We would like to request a meeting with Council to have a discussion and share some of the concerns that we're hearing and finding a solution that benefits both the community and the businesses that serve it.

Sincerely,

Tyler Schroeder
Chairperson
Morden Chamber of Commerce

