

## Dear City of Montréal Sidewalk Walkers

What is wrong with you? How difficult can it be to walk on the sidewalk politely? I have decided that it is officially time for you to be informed of some unwritten, but obvious "International Rules for Sidewalk Walking."

1. Treat the sidewalk as if it were a road where the faster cars travel in the middle and left lanes, and the slower ones stay in the right lane.
2. Keep to the right. If you are passing someone going in the opposite direction, move to your right. This will avoid that awkward left-right-left-right who-will-go-which-way shuffle that happens when you encounter an indecisive walker.
3. When walking with friends, there is a tendency to want to walk three or more across. Well, guess what? The sidewalk does not belong to you and you alone. We share the sidewalk. I know you want to walk side-by-side, but there is really only so much space.
4. Pass to the left. Once again, treat the sidewalk like you would the road. By following the stay-right rule, faster walkers have no problem passing slower walkers because everyone has a place.
5. Don't text on your cellphone while walking. You've been stuck behind a walk-texter and felt the anger rise. Don't be that person.
6. Never, never, never stop in the middle of the sidewalk. I don't care if your shoe has come untied. I don't care if your cellphone is ringing and you lack the capacity to keep walking while you answer. Politely move to the side and out of the way, then take care of your business.

My dearest sidewalk-walker, I know that these rules may come as a shock. But if we all give a little and show some courtesy, walking our fabulous city will be a lot easier and more pleasant for everyone.

Here's to more enjoyable walking!

Sincerely,

Ms. Demeanor