

Your Worship Mayor Copeland and Esteemed City Council,

I am here today, alongside Rev. Jeremy Willment, representing the local owners of GIO scooters in Cold Lake. In your hands are attachments related to the statements made in this letter here today.

We are deeply concerned about the recently introduced bylaw that prohibits GIO scooters from our streets. When the news broke about having to stay on our private property, I was contacted with feedback from local scooter owners and supporters, some of whom have shared their thoughts in the attached letters, expressing how crucial these mobility scooters are to making their daily lives function.

My husband, like the other owners of the GIO all-season mobility scooter, was absolutely devastated when he saw the news article. Previously he has owned several other mobility scooters that were not all-seasoned. He spent up to \$8000 on models that he had to park  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year. What a waste of an investment!! When he found the GIO brand all-season model he was so happy! No more awkward shopping trips where you could only have room for one store at a time. No more pain from the arthritis during cold seasons. The investment was finally worthwhile and not much more than an open scooter. He could go anywhere he needed to because Cold Lake was so accessible for them. Finally something sensible for the disabled community.

So back to bylaws. We understand how difficult bylaws can be. The laws are difficult to follow in the winter when so many sidewalks and trails are unkept. Should we drive on roadsides like a bicycle? The winter fat bikes do.

There is no law against tooting your horn I don't believe. When I rode my bike, I had a bell on it. I rang the bell and waved to everyone I went past. There is too much impatience and fear in this world now. Everyone is fighting a battle that we know nothing about. Instead of getting angry with them, be kind. Say hello to the person walking or riding by. It might just change their day.

We urge you to reconsider this bylaw, as it appears to disproportionately impact residents with disabilities, potentially leading to serious class action legal repercussions against the city.

The "Basic Principles of Bylaws" outlined by the Alberta Government emphasize fairness and the protection of individual rights, principles this council seems to overlook. Additionally, a recent court declaration from Olds, AB, confirms that the GIO scooter is a recognized mobility device under the Traffic Safety Act. This restriction of the GIO all season mobility scooter has been decided in the scooter's favor.

We respectfully request that you amend or repeal this bylaw and issue a front page public apology regarding the accusations towards the GIO in relation to a pedestrian accident on the Millennium Trail.. If your city bylaw officer would not have led the public to believe the accident was caused by a GIO specifically, by wording his report that way... well you wouldn't have had this problem now..

Thank you for kind attention, I would like to introduce Rev. Jeremy Willment to you. He is also a GIO all-season mobility scooter owner and well... it has changed his life!!

And so has your bylaw...

## Comparison of two GIO brand mobility scooter models

Golf Dimensions	Tron Dimensions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Length: 79"</li><li>● Width: 32"</li><li>● Height: 62"</li><li>● Weight: 670lbs</li><li>● Seat width: 14"</li><li>● Bench width: 33"</li><li>● Bench Depth 16"</li><li>● Ground Clearance: 6"</li><li>● Tire Diameter: 18"</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Length: 62"</li><li>● Width: 28"</li><li>● Height: 51"</li><li>● Weight: 335lbs</li><li>● Seat Width: 18"</li><li>● Seat to ground: 25"</li><li>● Seat to footboard: 17"</li><li>● Ground Clearance: 4.75" (2.5" @ anti-tip wheels)</li><li>● Tire Diameter: 16"</li></ul>
<b>Speeds by setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Low:</b> up to 10km/h</li><li>● <b>Medium:</b> up to 18km/h</li><li>● <b>High:</b> up to 29km/h</li><li>● <b>Reverse:</b> up to 5km/h (3mph)</li></ul>	<b>Speeds by setting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Low:</b> up to 8km/h (5mph)</li><li>● <b>Medium:</b> up to 16km/h (10mph)</li><li>● <b>High:</b> up to 24km/h (15mph)</li><li>● <b>Reverse:</b> up to 5km/h (3mph)</li></ul>

The Golf was designed with 2 doors with disabilities in mind. Not everyone can get into their scooter easily from the driver side, and as such it has doors on both sides. It also has room for your pet to travel with you as so many now have personal support animals. This extra space is also ideal for groceries, keep adding at each store because it locks with an alarm when you are not in it. There is no seatbelt in the rear battery area so extra human passengers should not be in the scooter. It has a distinct reverse beeper so people are aware that you are backing up. Also as in all mobility scooters, the controls are on the handles. It has 3 different gears for those who are not as comfortable in the "Rabbit" mode. It has approx. a 50km range on a charge that costs approx \$1.50.

The Tron and other GIO models are designed for mobility in decent weather. They all have the mechanical features of the Golf, but without the radio, backup camera and most importantly the all-round protection from the elements.



To the City of Cold Lake Council,

Subject: Advocacy for My Son's Independence Through the GIO Scooter

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent developments surrounding the public use of GIO scooters in Cold Lake. This matter holds significant personal importance as it directly impacts the independence and well-being of my son, Kameron Churko.

Kameron is a vibrant and well-loved member of the Cold Lake community. Known for his outgoing personality and unwavering enthusiasm at local events, he has built a reputation for spreading positivity. Kameron lives with mental delays and Muscular Dystrophy, conditions that limit his ability to achieve full independence but do not diminish his desire to live a fulfilling and self-determination life.

At 25 years old, Kameron still resides with my husband and me, as his disabilities make living alone infeasible. Despite this, he dreams of achieving greater independence, including living in an assisted living facility—a service currently unavailable in Cold Lake. Kameron's need for independence is met, in part, through his love of being outdoors and staying active. Whether it's rain, snow, or sunshine, he can often be found riding his fat bike, waving at passing motorists and engaging with the community.

Transportation has always been a challenge for Kameron. As a family, we often serve as his primary means of transport to community events and appointments when his bike is unavailable. While we explored adaptive transportation services, the process proved cumbersome. Kameron was required to demonstrate eligibility through extensive documentation, including confirmation of his disabilities from a physician. Additionally, these services are not free, adding financial strain given that Kameron relies on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), which barely covers his living expenses.

When Kameron discovered the GIO scooter, he saw it as an opportunity to achieve a level of independence he had long sought but never fully experienced. After thorough research and a family discussion, we decided this mode of transportation was a perfect fit. The excitement Kameron displayed upon learning he could have the scooter—or "Kam's car," as we affectionately call it—was infectious.

The GIO scooter has transformed Kameron's life. It has allowed him to independently attend community events, visit friends, and even run errands for the family. The small back seat enables him to do his own grocery shopping—a small but meaningful step toward adulthood. Kameron's independence has extended to his seasonal job at the MD Campground, where he proudly commuted daily using his GIO. He often expressed how proud he was to handle his transportation needs on his own.

The community's response to Kameron's GIO scooter has been overwhelmingly positive. Residents and local law enforcement have embraced and supported his efforts to gain independence. Seeing Kameron wave and interact with others as he tours around town has brought joy to many, reaffirming the scooter's role in enhancing his quality of life.

Unfortunately, the possibility of this newfound independence being taken away is deeply troubling. The GIO scooter is not just a vehicle; it represents self-determination and dignity, and the ability to participate fully in the life of our community. Losing this vital resource would be a significant step backward for Kameron and for families like ours who strive to provide opportunities for their loved ones with disabilities.

I urge the City of Cold Lake Council to consider the profound impact that GIO scooters have on individuals like Kameron. Ensuring that he and others in similar situations can continue to use this transportation option is a matter of equity, inclusion, and compassion. Please support initiatives that allow all residents to enjoy greater independence and connection to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karla and Kelvin Churko

Karla Churko

JAN 25, 2025

Hi I'm Kameron Churko I have a mobility scooter with the scooter it gives me more independence to get around town. I can go to the grocery store or where I need to go. Anyone that I see or talk to me about it and they think its cool because they never seen a scooter that is enclosed before.

How the mobility scooter helps me get around it helps me because I don't have a driver's licence, I have more range with it and I don't have to depend on my parents to take me around town or go see friends with having the mobility scooter it gives people like me or have other disability's able to do things on their own.

Kameron Churko

FEBRUARY 17 2025

## ATTN; MAYOR AND COUNCIL

CITY OF COLD LAKE AB

As per the proposed Bylaw concerning the GIO Mobility Scooter.

As a GIO owner I would like to Implore you as a council to repeal the Bylaw that you have proposed concerning the GIO enclosed Mobility scooter. I see this as an encroachment on not only my Human Rights as discriminatory, but on the rights of all disabled people in our community that would deem it necessary to avail themselves of the life changing aspects of the GIO Enclosed Mobility scooter. To try to reclassify these Mobility scooters is an infringement on all disabled people that need a safe form of conveyance in all-weather to and from their different appointments and daily endeavors. It provides shelter and warmth that no other Mobility scooter affords.

I would ask you as a body, why you would want to take away a more comfortable means of travel from our disabled and seniors than the comfort you expect for yourselves? We are a group of people in this community that still want our freedoms but with this Bylaw, you are making many of us prisoners in our own homes, as we have no other means of getting around to do our tasks or appointments. We wish to maintain our dignity and poise just like you, but your Bylaw says that we are not allowed to have that courtesy as we are not as important to society as those that do not have disabilities. We are just as important as anyone else in this community. we push through the inconveniences that most take for granted and never complain. We find diverse ways to cope with mobility and getting things done in a way that we can say we did it ourselves. and sometimes that is an excessively big accomplishment for us, but it seems small to others. The GIO enclosed Mobility scooter has changed my life and many others not



only in this community but other communities as well. This Bylaw threatens to take all of that away from those of us that rely on them for our mobility and quality of life. For most of us we never thought that we would ever need this form of transportation, but now we find ourselves in situations that we never thought we would be in. It can happen very suddenly, as we are faced with life changing events that alter the path of our lives in a moment. we never plan it, but suddenly life is no longer what we thought it would be. This is how it happened for me. My life changed forever in the matter of fifteen minutes and will never be the same again.

After fighting some depression, and anger over what had happened to me, I also realized that I would have to turn in my license, and would never have the freedom to just run up town, or out for a coffee with a friend without putting some one else out of their way to get me there. I closed myself off so that I would not be a burden to others. I was Trying to convince myself that this was for the best, and also the best that I would ever have. Because in this big country that we live in if you don't have a drivers license you are not able to be useful to anyone. This affected my business as a leather designer but more importantly my ability to be a Minister in the community, as I was no longer able to drive to help those that needed pastoral care. I lived outside the city but even in the city it was to far for me to help the people that I care about. As often the needs are very time sensitive. I was at a complete loss, and ready to give up. When one day a friend told me about the GIO enclosed Mobility scooter. This was a game changer because it meant that I could not only get around on my own again but that I would be safe from the elements of the weather. I am unable to ride an open Mobility scooter as I suffer from neuropathy in my hands and feet as well as an eye condition that causes my eyes to freeze solid in the cold. I was excited, I could see a possibility of serving my community again in the capacity of a Pastor. I could finally be useful again. I could go out to the hospital in the middle of the night and sit with someone that needed end of life care, without disturbing my whole household and small children. I could go for coffee with the person that was ready to take their own life, talk them down, and help them see that their life was still important and that with help they could still go on, that things would be better. I was able to show tangible love to this community when it was Vitally needed in the very moment of need. The GIO enclosed Mobility scooter has not only given me my life back but has also given others the hope that they needed because I could get to them when they needed it most. The Bylaw that you propose now takes

all that away from me and the people that I serve in this community. It goes against not only the rights of the elderly and disabled but in my case, it opens a void in the rights of the people that I serve in cold lake. people that may not still be with us if I did not have the ability to meet them in their time of need. So, as you can see, I am not only asking you to consider those of us that use the GIO Enclosed Mobility scooter but also all those that we may be serving by having the ability to meet them where they are at in the moment. Please repeal the Bylaw not only for the sake of the users but also the people that we serve.

In addition, I would like to site the Olds Alberta case that was taken out of the courts, siting that the GIO Enclosed Mobility scooter is a pedestrian and so, legal to be used on the sidewalks, and trails in our communities. I truly believe that the Bylaw that you propose is not only a discrimination against those that need and use them, but could cause a danger to the welfare of our community at large, because of the people that we, as still viable citizens are able to serve that we would be unable to, without our mobility.

SINCERELY,

REVEREND JEREMY A. WILLMENT



Hi Jeremy

I hope the dealer can help you with this but here is some info we can provide:

The information we provide for this model, and all our mobility scooters, is that they are designed and intended to be used as a mobility scooter/device/aid. The product is exclusively for offroad use only; they are not street legal and we encourage people to check locally before purchase. To comply with Canadian regulations, the Golf specifically has a limited speed to prevent its use as a street legal motor vehicle. It also features standard scooter controls of a twist grip throttle and hand brakes. Moreover, each

Golf displays a handicap placard on the rear window. The units are just the same basic setup as any 4 wheeled mobility scooter.

Alberta.ca illustrates:

[https://www.transportation.alberta.ca/transportation/41/production/small\\_vehicle\\_booklet\\_final.pdf](https://www.transportation.alberta.ca/transportation/41/production/small_vehicle_booklet_final.pdf)

This scooter facilitates the transportation of a physically disabled person.

Thanks

Gary

This device, a GIO all-season enclosed mobility scooter is a mobility device as defined by the Traffic safety Act:

Interpretation

1(1) In this Act,

*(v) "mobility aid" means a device used to facilitate the transport, in a normal seated orientation, of a person with a physical disability;*

Further, pursuant to the Traffic Safety Act, the operator of this device is defined as a pedestrian:

*(gg) "pedestrian" means*

*(i) a person on foot, or*

*(ii) a person in or on a mobility aid,*

As a pedestrian, the operator of this mobility device is permitted to use this device on a sidewalk:

*(pp) "sidewalk" means that part of a highway especially adapted to the use of or ordinarily used by pedestrians, and includes that part of a highway between*

what certifies a Mo...

wheelchair, or scooter, tailored to the individual's needs.

### **No single "certification" body:**

While there may be standards for mobility aid design and manufacturing, there isn't a single governing body that universally certifies each individual mobility aid.

### **Relevant certifications for professionals involved with mobility aids:**

#### **Assistive Technology Professional (ATP):**

A certification for professionals who work with a wide range of assistive technologies, including mobility aids.

#### **Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS):**

A more specialized certification focusing on seating and positioning needs related to mobility aids.



Home



Search



Saved



Notifications



what certifies a Mo...


## AI Overview



A mobility aid is typically certified by **a healthcare professional, like a doctor**, who assesses an individual's needs and prescribes a specific mobility aid based on their medical condition, meaning the "certification" comes from a medical evaluation and prescription rather than a specific product certification process. 

## Key points about mobility aid certification:

### Medical assessment:

A doctor or other qualified healthcare provider will evaluate the individual's mobility limitations and determine if a mobility aid is necessary. 

### Prescription:

Once deemed necessary, the healthcare



Home



Search



Saved



Notifications