

Bryant, Shellie

From: Colleen Christopherson-Cote <colleen@safecommunityactionalliance.ca>
Sent: May 27, 2020 9:44 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Colleen Christopherson-Cote - Saskatoon InterAgency Response to COVID19 - Transit Fares - CK 7300-1 X 270-7
Attachments: tranist_letter_to_council_iar_may27.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Submitted on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 - 09:43

Submitted by anonymous user: 127.0.0.1

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, May 26, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Colleen
Last Name Christopherson-Cote
Phone Number
Email colleen@safecommunityactionalliance.ca
Address [REDACTED] pohorecky cove
City saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatoon InterAgency response to COVID19
Subject Transit fares
Meeting (if known)
Comments please find letter attached
Attachments
[tranist letter to council iar may27.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

[REDACTED]



May 27, 2020.

Your Worship and City Council,

I'm writing on behalf of the Saskatoon Inter-agency Response to COVID-19 (aka Vulnerable Sector EOC) to thank you for your leadership through the COVID-19 Pandemic and to ask for some additional consideration of the vulnerable sector on this issue.

The Saskatoon Inter-agency Response is a group of 50+ organizations including non-profit organizations providing front-line services and representatives of government agencies. We are deeply appreciative of the City of Saskatoon and Council's support over the past eight weeks as we do everything in our power to flatten the curve in Saskatoon by helping the most vulnerable people in our community to stay safe, reducing transmission of the virus and decreasing the burden and risk experienced by all frontline workers. Thanks in no small part to support from the EOC, your reallocated staff, and the City's adoption of our work as priority in the local COVID-19 response, we have been able to do our work in a coordinated, safe and effective manner. The work continues.

As representative of the Inter-agency response, I have also appreciated ongoing engagement with your administration on issues of relevance to this sector. Saskatoon Transit, in particular, has been a great partner, and we've appreciated the opportunities to support each other's messaging, exchange ideas, and problem solve together. We are in support of the strategy going forward on Transit service and believe the added space on buses is a good next step to help riders maintain physical distance. We are committed to helping with this communication through partnership with your communications and Transit teams. We also understand the complexity of responding to the re-open planning and ensuring the safety of riders and operators through the transitions.

We would like to ask that you carefully consider the forms of fare payment that Transit will begin accepting. Many residents, particularly those that are vulnerable, will use cash to pay for transit. Given the impacts from COVID for accessing cash and the complexities of transmission associated with handling cash we would like to ensure that the process is safe and equitable. We want to ensure that access to acquiring passes and tickets as an alternative is encouraged. As agencies serving vulnerable residents, it will take time to clearly articulate and support clients to access bus tickets/passes, particularly because many of the agencies are still not open. We understand that this has been discussed within the Transit team and has been flagged as an important consideration.

What we're asking for further consideration of is the implementation date for fare reinstatement. We believe that reinstatement of fares on June 15th will better accommodate the added communications necessary to effectively reach a population typically under-reached by public communications.

The week between June 8th and 15th will also allow this message to be shared organically through communications between operators and passengers, resulting in a smoother transition and reduced chance of friction at the reintroduction. This time will also provide residents more opportunity to acquire passes and tickets in advance of the fare reinstatement.

Thank you again for your commitment to the wellbeing of our community at this time and for your support of those most impacted by COVID-19 at this time.

Sincerely,

Colleen Christopherson-Cote

Incident Command

Saskatoon Interagency Response to COVID-19

<https://saskatooninteragencyresponse.ca/>