

SWF Letter to City Manager Requesting Donation of City Building

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Jeff Jorgenson
City Manager
City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Ave North
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RE: Donation of City Building to Saskatoon Wildlife Federation

Mr. Jorgenson:

Thank you for the phone call regarding a city building that is to be moved onto our property to be utilized as a multi-cultural interpretive centre/office facility.

The Saskatoon Wildlife Federation is proud to be celebrating our 70th anniversary in 2020 and we are looking forward to another 70 years of growth and evolving to meet the city's changing needs.

Currently, we are very proud to be strongly involved in the current Inner-City Meal Program administered by the Saskatoon Tribal Council. In 3 months, we have produced over 12,000 bagged lunches and raised more than \$50,000 for this very worthwhile initiative.

When founded, we could barely see the city, and now, with continued development, we are one of the largest urban wildlife federations in the country. Our 2,400 members come from all walks of life (white-collar, blue collar, urban, rural, retired, youth). With such a varied member base, it is important to have a wide variety of activities and opportunities for them to enjoy. We are currently home to the following clubs:

- Saskatoon Rifle Revolver Club
- Saskatoon Straight Shooters Archery Club
- Junior Saskatoon Rifle Revolver Club (Air Rifle)
- Junior Outdoor Program

In addition to the on-site activities, we also host the largest Outdoor Leisure show in the province. Each year, 9,000 – 12,000 individuals come through the doors at Prairieland Park to see what is new and exciting in the outdoor world. Exhibitors come from all

three prairie provinces as the show has garnered a very solid reputation having run for 69 consecutive years.

One of the mandates of our Federation is to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle associated with outdoor activities. This is where the repurposing of the existing city owned building is key to our future plans. Once re-located and updated, the building will be home to a multi-cultural interpretive centre focusing on the historical and future importance of native areas such as the North-East Swale. In developing the centre, we will be consulting with the following organizations to ensure we have the best possible information to educate our visitors:

- Meewasin Valley Authority
- Wanuskewin Heritage Park
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Ministry of the Environment
- City of Saskatoon

Our goal will be to promote our location as a “must see” attraction for the city to visitors from near and far. The location will also be ideal for larger groups, such as educational institutions, as a launching point to walk the trails of the North East Swale.

The building will also be located just steps away from a provincially stocked trout pond which is seeing more use every year from local anglers that are benefiting from having a second stocked trout pond within the city limits.

To provide visitors with the best possible experience, we will be re-locating our administration offices into the new building to administer federation business and answer any visitor questions that may be asked about the area.

There are no financial expectations of the city in the move of the building. We did receive an \$8,000 grant from the city in 2019 and have secured the additional funds to complete the move in 2020.

We appreciate the long-standing, cooperative working relationship we have with the City of Saskatoon and look forward to this continuing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Holmquist
Executive Director
Saskatoon Wildlife Federation