



January 20, 2021

Mayor Charlie Clark & City Councillors
City of Saskatoon
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Re: Creating a National Pandemic Research Centre in Saskatoon – VIDO-InterVac

I was fortunate to take part in a video conference on January 19, 2021 with senior leadership from VIDO-InterVac and leaders from various business organizations. To say that Dr. Volker Gerdts, Dr. Paul Hodgson, and the 150 other interdisciplinary researchers at VIDO-InterVac do amazing work is an understatement. While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought this important work to the forefront, VIDO-InterVac has been on the leading edge of protecting human and animal health for years.

With the previous investment of over \$200 million in containment infrastructure already in place, and 40 years of experience, expanding VIDO-InterVac to become a National Pandemic Research Centre is a logical progression that will benefit Canadians and people around the world. We lend our support to bringing this research centre to Saskatoon as it will certainly benefit our local economy through job creation. More importantly this type of facility will help safeguard the world from emerging diseases while protecting both human and animal life and mitigate against economic losses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Penner'.

Brent Penner
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Volker Gerdts, Director & CEO, VIDO-InterVac
Dr. Paul Hodgson, Associate Director, Business Development, VIDO-InterVac
Mr. Douglas Richardson, Q.C., McKercher LLP
Downtown Saskatoon Board of Directors