

January 27, 2021

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

Mayor Clark and City Councillors,

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce is proud to add its voice in support of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization and International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) in its bid to expand and upgrade its facilities at the University of Saskatchewan.

VIDO's vision of becoming Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research is compelling as it is timely – a unique opportunity to build on VIDO's existing strengths to address one of the most significant health challenges of our generation.

As you know, VIDO is already a global leader in human and animal infectious disease research and vaccine development. It is home to one of North America's largest containment level 2 and 3 vaccine infectious disease research institutes. Additionally, VIDO-InterVac is one of Canada's only research facilities with containment level 3 large animal capacity and it is one of the largest and most advanced level 3 containment facilities in the world. In response to COVID-19, it was the first in Canada to isolate the virus and get a vaccine into animal testing.

VIDO's track record of success, strong international reputation, research infrastructure, relationship with university-based research communities, and expertise at the intersection of animal and human health are among the reasons why VIDO's vision of becoming Canada's Centre for Pandemic Research is both exciting and achievable. VIDO has the potential to add to Canada's capacity for biomanufacturing, focus on emerging diseases, and proactively develop vaccines that are available before those diseases unleash pandemics that destroy lives and livelihoods around the world.

Closer to home, it promises to attract top talent to our city, create careers and employment for graduate students and aspiring research specialists, and spawn the development of spin-off companies to serve and support VIDO's ongoing work.

We understand that the City of Saskatoon has been asked to invest in VIDO's vision that would see the addition of a new animal facility, upgrade VIDO's capacity to containment Level 4, and trigger critical funding from other levels of government. Given the significant potential this investment holds for our community and economy, we urge you to look favourably on the request.

/2



110-345 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N3  
☎ 306-244-2151  
✉ [chamber@saskatoonchamber.com](mailto:chamber@saskatoonchamber.com)

More than an expansion plan, VIDO-InterVac's vision is an opportunity to ignite a new era of economic renewal and prosperity for our city. As Saskatoon's voice for business, representing a powerful network of businesses, organizations and community-minded leaders who want the best for their city, we are proud to lend our support.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Aebig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Aebig  
CEO

CC: The Honourable Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan  
Dr. Peter Stoicheff, President, University of Saskatchewan  
Dr. Volker Gerdts, Director & CEO, VIDO-InterVac