

## Walter, Penny

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**Subject:** FW: Contact the Mayor (Stefan Fridriksson)

-----Original Message-----

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:55 AM

To: Web E-mail - Mayor's Office <Mayors.Office@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Contact the Mayor (Stefan Fridriksson)

Submitted on Monday, February 15, 2021 - 09:54

Submitted values are:

First Name: Stefan

Last Name: Fridriksson

Organization:

Street AddressFralicks Beach Rd,

City: Port Perry

Province: Ontario

Postal Code:

Phone:

Fax Number:

Email: Comments:

Dear Mayor and Council,

I was concerned when I saw a photo of the Knox Tower proposed for Saskatoon's Spadina Crescent. As a former resident of Saskatoon, I see the area along the river between the bridges, with the Bessborough, the old historic churches and the north shoreline parks to be one of Saskatoon's most-recognized and attractive features. I believe, the proposed tower would seriously diminish the ambience and the beauty of that important and historic setting. In the modern world, there are many tall buildings that have risen into urban skies. In contrast, there are ever fewer charming, historic buildings with their surrounding environs that grace our cities. Removal and destruction of the heritage, ambience and elegance of such precious spaces is not in the long term interests of the city.

My wife and I have been fortunate to travel the world and visit many countries and historic cities since we left Saskatoon 35 years ago. The cities we remember best have preserved their unique character-defining elements of heritage and beauty. The elements that the leaders of those cities chose to protect have delineated them as special in my mind. These are the spaces that provide the gathering spots; the open-air restaurants and shops that encouraged people to linger. Perhaps you and your council can summon similar memories from your own travels that provide special feelings about ambience, architecture and history. Saskatoon is a young city, and as such has not had the centuries to develop an abundance of architecture that is worth preserving. For this reason, it is doubly important to keep the few special spaces that you have.

Conversely, I have also seen the symmetry of many beautiful historic settings destroyed by the interpolation of architecture that reduces the old churches, neighbourhoods and extraordinary spaces to a hodgepodge of uneven and incompatible urban blight. Perhaps you have also had the chance to spend time in East Berlin or Warsaw and understand my concern. Development is an important part

of every city. Development without preservation of historic spaces risks losing this significant piece of what makes Saskatoon special and a city worth visiting and living in.

All the best,

Stefan Fridriksson