
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Kent Smith-Windsor - Municipal Tax Policy - CK 1920-1
Attachments: city_council_property_tax0001.pdf; city_council_property_tax0002.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 1:08 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
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--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Friday, March 5, 2021 - 13:07

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Friday, March 05, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Kent

Last Name Smith-Windsor

Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Keeley Cres

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Citizen

Subject Municipal Tax Policy

Meeting (if known) Standing Policy Committee on Finance

Comments

Please find attached my letter concerning the tax ration and the merits of further reducing the non residential property tax surcharge for the mutual benefit of all citizens of Saskatoon.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

March 5, 2021
City of Saskatoon
Standing Policy Committee on Finance
City Hall
222 3rd Ave N
Saskatoon, Sk
S7J 0J5

Dear Committee:

Re Non residential Property tax surcharge-agenda item 7.3.2 on your March 8 Agenda

I am writing to support a further reduction in the Non Residential Property Tax Ratio to an effective 1.5 surcharge to residential rates as part of the 2021 property reassessment process. This premium level can be adopted while still further reducing the residential tax load. Successive City Councils of Saskatoon for over 20 years have been gradually reducing the non residential tax premium in a manner that simultaneously reduced the tax load on residential property tax payers and supported non residential property assessment growth.

Policies that help grow the non residential assessment base of Saskatoon offer clear benefits to all our citizens by:

1. Continued growth of the non-residential tax base has the effect of reducing residential property tax rates because of the higher tax rate on non-residential property.
2. Encouraging increased business investment through sound tax policy offers our citizens more, and a greater variety of, career options in our city.

An earlier Administrative report on this year's reassessment showed that the non residential assessment base of Saskatoon has grown much faster compared to the residential base. Because of the non residential surcharge, the scale of non residential assessment growth allows for a further reduction in the surcharge while still reducing the residential tax load.

Saskatoon's non residential assessment growth rate is at a rate far exceeding other municipalities in Saskatchewan and across Canada. This is an evidence based testament to the merits of a policy that continues to reduce the surcharge.

Saskatoon's entrepreneurs make up much of our non residential taxpayers. These local entrepreneurs face growing global competitive pressure which has intensified and accelerated during the pandemic. This competitive pressure is most intensely felt by locally based small business entrepreneurs located in the core neighbourhood business districts and downtown. A further reduction in the surcharge will encourage our entrepreneurs to maintain and grow their investment in our city and help keep our core neighbourhood districts and downtown economically vibrant for the benefit of all of us.

As a citizen of Saskatoon who has no commercial property interests but has a large portion of my family's life time savings invested in residential property in our city, I am hopeful that City Council will further reduce the non residential tax surcharge. It is good policy and it benefits us all.

Sincerely

Kent Smith-Windsor