



Working Together to  
Strengthen Communities

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April 1, 2021

Dear Chief Cooper,

Thank you for your letter dated February 10, 2021 about Build Up Saskatoon.

While we appreciate your general support, we would like to understand the reasons to not pursue an outcomes purchase agreement with Quint/Build Up Saskatoon. We feel there is a lot potential for outcomes purchase agreements because they propose an innovative way for government agencies and the social economy to work together to solve persistent and complex social problems. This is also consistent with your message about the need to work in partnership with community to address root causes of crime.

Compared with the status quo of continually spending more and more on police and jails, these solutions save governments money and create healthier, stronger and safer communities. We believe our approach to provide employment with supports to people involved with the justice system provides a material way to address root causes of crime. We would like to explore ways that police and other levels of government can sustainably support these kinds of solutions. Our goal is to scale this up so we can employ and train a significant number of people.

In your letter, you do offer to consider supporting Build Up Saskatoon outside of any Outcomes Purchase Agreement. There are three possible ways that the Police could support our work:

1. We are collaborating with the Canadian Centre for the Study of Cooperatives at the University of Saskatchewan to do research on the costs of various police and justice interventions. It would be very helpful if the SPS could cooperate with this research team by sharing data and related information.
2. In your letter, you offer to refer clients to Build Up Saskatoon which we would be happy to take but we need sufficient resources to provide the needed supports. We have entered into a funding agreement with Ministry of Justice that would support some of the operational costs of Build Up Saskatoon. Would the SPS consider a funding agreement with Build Up Saskatoon?

3. As a construction social enterprise, Build Up is always looking for more construction/renovation contracts to work on. We encourage public agencies to implement a social procurement lens when buying goods and services. The SPS should prioritize contracting with BUS relevant work that it procures. The following link contains a “Guide to Social Procurement”.  
<https://www.buysocialcanada.com/>

Thanks for meeting with us and we look forward to ongoing discussions.

Yours truly,



Len Usiskin, Executive Director

Cc: Drew Wilby, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Engagement Divisions,  
Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety  
Commissioner Jo Custead, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners  
Mayor Charlie Clark, City of Saskatoon