

August 23, 2021

Governance and Priorities Committee
Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Ave N.
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

RE: 8.1.8 – Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

On behalf of our members, I want to congratulate the City on being successful in receiving funds from the CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative. As I've noted in previous letters and presentations at Committee and Council, the role of rental housing in our community cannot be understated. Over 30% of Saskatoon residents live in rental housing, and affordable housing is a key component to the overall housing mix.

As the City participates in the Rapid Housing Initiative, it is important to consider the following:

- The provider(s) selected should have a thorough and demonstrated knowledge of the *Residential Tenancies Act* and have sufficient organizational capacity to undertake the RHI project
- The location of the units and their proximity to community services such as schools and public transit
- If the units are being built or renovated, that certified and experienced homebuilders and renovators be used to ensure a high-quality and on-budget project is executed
- The role that operational costs will play in delivering other services and supports for low-income and vulnerable individuals and where those funds could come from

As we continue to see rising trends of homelessness and seek strategies to improve the health and safety of our community, the next Housing Business Plan will be an integral piece of the work that needs to be done to ensure our citizens have access to a healthy, resilient, and affordable housing continuum.

We look forward to hearing more about the RHI and supporting the City's future housing goals.

Sincerely,



Cameron Choquette
Chief Executive Officer