



Backgrounder for the City of Saskatoon Council
Re: Proposed resolution to strengthen democracy by
supporting local journalism
By: ink-stainedwretches.org

- The name of our group is ink-stainedwretches.org (the same as our URL).
- Our project promotes support for local journalism in ALL FORMS: Print, broadcast, digital — not only newspapers.
- Whereas our campaign is a local grassroots effort started in the Region of Waterloo, we hope that it will spread across Canada because residents across the country are experiencing a dwindling supply of reliable local journalism.
- As of Canada Day 2021, **our resolution has been passed by 25 municipal councils in seven provinces representing more than 11 million residents.** Municipalities [include](#) Edmonton and Winnipeg; Tofino and Toronto; Waterloo Region, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's.
- We have support from every province and territory in Canada: As of Canada Day 2021, our [online petition](#) has been endorsed by more than 1000 people from all provinces and territories save Nunavut. (However, an Ottawa-based editor working for a Nunavut news outlet has signed the petition.)
- We have not sought the blessing of media executives because this is a grassroots effort by media workers past and present. Of course, we welcome endorsements from news media executives. But they have their own associations and avenues for advocacy.
- We are not asking City of Saskatoon councillors to allocate additional funding to support local journalism.
- Three possible action items for council contained in our proposed resolution:
 - We would be happy if council would write letters encouraging nearby municipal councils to adopt a similar resolution.
 - We would be delighted if council would send letters to the Municipalities of Saskatchewan and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities asking the organizations to encourage their members to adopt similar resolutions.
 - And we would appreciate it if council would write and send similar letters of support — to ensure an ecosystem for robust local journalism — to elected leaders including local MLAs, MPs; Steven Guilbeault, minister of Canadian heritage; Chrystia Freeland, federal minister of finance; and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Requested on behalf of the grassroots group ink-stainedwretches.org