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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Michelle Laham Szutiak - COVID 19 Policy for Sport Facilities - CK 270-7

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@saskatoon.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:31 AM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@saskatoon.ca)>

**Subject:** Email - Communication - Michelle Laham Szutiak - COVID 19 Policy for Sport Facilities - CK 270-7

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 - 10:30

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Wednesday, October 13, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Michelle

Last Name Laham Szutiak

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] 29th Street W

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

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

Subject COVID 19 policy re: sports facilities access restriction for children

Meeting (if known)

Comments

I am aware of Council's decision on October 9th, imposing restrictions on children attending city leisure's centres. I have two children, ages 13 and 15, who by virtue of your decision are no longer able to continue participating in competitive swimming. Importantly, they recently relocated to Saskatoon, which besides being a lovely place to live with good governance, has offered them top-notch training in swimming and soccer. For this reason, this decision is particularly distressing for my children.

This discriminatory decision (distinguishing children by age and medical status) not only violates my children's Charter Rights, but also has a significant and serious impact upon my children's mental and physical wellbeing. The suggestion that this decision is being rolled out for the "convenience" of City Staff - is NOT an acceptable basis for violating a child's basic rights.

We have been encouraging children to be active throughout COVID and have allowed sports to continue as a necessary and vital part of children's social, physical, and mental development. This unilateral decision - without any opportunities for exemption (ie for sports teams) or even public consultation, prevents children from continuing to participate and enjoy basic activities and greatly exacerbates mental health issues. This was one of the few places, besides schools, that children have been able to just be children. You are now taking this away.

I respectfully request the opportunity for my children to address this matter before council - so that you can explain to this decision to them. I would also appreciate a particularization as to the legal basis as to how this policy, based upon convenience, is an acceptable basis for the violation of fundamental Charter Rights. What is the data that is relied upon to suggest that there is actually any sort of heightened risk by allowing children to continue to attend these sporting venues? We are afterall still allowing children to attend schools.

My hope remains that dialogue can lead to a mutually satisfactory way through this crisis, allowing everyone in this City to continue enjoying a quality of life while we stay safe. Notably, the majority of children have been able to “stay safe” while participating in these activities. I am unclear as to why this change is necessary now.

I look forward to your earliest response.

Michelle Laham Szutiak

Lawyer

Attachments

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

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**Subject:** FW: Voice Mail (Michelle [REDACTED]) - Michelle Laham Szutiak - COVID 19 Policy for Sport Facilities - CK 270-7  
**Attachments:** audio.mp3; Email - Communication - Michelle Laham Szutiak - COVID 19 Policy for Sport Facilities - CK 270-7

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2021 2:31 PM  
**To:** Web E-mail - Mayor's Office <[Mayors.Office@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:Mayors.Office@Saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Voice Mail (43 seconds)

Hi there, my name is Michelle Williams hodiak. I had emailed the Mayor's office on Tuesday requesting for an opportunity for my children to speak with the mayor and Council to address the issue of no exemptions being offered for kids doing swimming programs at the city. I know Regina does that. I'm waiting for here to hear back from somebody please. My number is area code [REDACTED] and it's only when I'm getting this message that it appears that there is web mail is not working so I trust that if your email is not working that your website would be saying that. So I do look forward to hearing from somebody at your earliest opportunity. Thank you, bye.

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[Set Up Voice Mail](#)