



January 6, 2022

Jo Custead
Chair, Board of Police
Commissioners



RE: Retail Policing Services

Dear Jo Custead,

Saskatoon Co-op is in need of police services support to address the growing concern of shoplifting and safety risks to our Team Members and customers that result from these incidents. However, it appears that our concerns have become less relevant and of less importance in the eyes of the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS).

A recent review of the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan for the SPS provides no indication in support of retail and our needs. This is despite the fact that of our 2021 Property Taxes, Police services make up 22.8% or \$206,505 of property taxes paid by Saskatoon Co-op to the City of Saskatoon.

I have these questions for SPS:

- Why does the SPS not show support of retail in their Strategic Plan?
- What should we as a retailer expect from the SPS for the contribution we make to the SPS when submitting our Property Taxes?
- What suggestions would the SPS have for retail to reduce significant and unnecessary costs, costs that are rising daily due to common knowledge that individuals are not being held accountable for illegal activities such as retail theft?
- In the absence of services, what would the SPS recommend to ensure that the well-being and safety of our Team Members and our customers looked after when exposed to these unwanted and illegal situations?

Over the years, Saskatoon Co-op has maintained a very good relationship with SPS; We are a proud sponsor of Crime Stoppers, we have been co-operative when being requested video footage from SPS officers and, when we could count on officers to respond to a theft at one of our locations, we often provided the investigative work necessary to ensure appropriate charges could be applied. We, at one time, had a true partnership.

Retail losses from theft are on the rise at a rapid pace, and we have found that individuals are less fearful knowing there are no consequences. Safety concerns from our Team Members and our customers are growing. Yet, support to retail through the offering of police services to address and create a consequence for this illegal activity is dissipating. This can no longer be ignored and must get attention.



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I would like to request a meeting to discuss this issue and develop a solution together for what is becoming a rapidly growing concern in retail landscape. I look forward to your response.

Respectively submitted,

Gerald Hiebert
Chief Executive Officer
Saskatoon Co-operative Association Limited

cc Chief Troy Cooper
 Mayor Charlie Clark