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January 19, 2022
SENT VIA CANADA POST

Your Worship Mayor Charlie Clark and the City of Saskatoon Council,

In following to SUMA's January 10, 2022 Municipal Update, the Town of White City is seeking support of our application for Boundary Alteration currently before the Saskatchewan Municipal Board.

In 2018 the Town of White City initiated a boundary alteration process to incorporate, into a single urban municipality, White City, Emerald Park, surrounding subdivisions and Great Plains Industrial Park in addition to sufficient undeveloped land for future growth. Today, we are still working toward that vision of a single urban municipality, with sufficient land to accommodate a 25-year growth plan and the tax base to improve, maintain and build the infrastructure and facilities to accommodate an urban community projected to reach over 20,000 people by 2045. It will create one urban municipality with one system of governance and set the appropriate path for future municipal co-operation with a joint management planning area of the lands surrounding White City.

White City and the surrounding area in the Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 have, and will continue to, experience significant growth. In 2018, White City commissioned a future growth study with a 25-year range and determined that population growth in White City will continue at a high rate.

During the past 25 years, the RM of Edenwold has developed several urban, country residential and rural commercial development on the borders of White City. The amount of development and other barriers to growth **now encompasses 55% of the Town's borders**. Based on the RM of Edenwold's 2019 Official Community Plan, further urban and commercial development on the borders of White City is planned to the extent that **85% of the Town's borders will be encumbered by development in the future**.

In comparison to other communities in Saskatchewan with a population of 1,000 or more, where the average amount of development on urban borders is approximately 10%, the situation with White City is significantly above this average and is unprecedented with respect to the comparison group. However, we expect that the trend of rural development encumbering urban borders in other communities has, and will, continue to grow as growth occurs in the province.



As the Provincial Government's Growth Plan progresses through the 2020s and 2030s more towns and Urban Municipalities will begin to, or are already seeing, increased development on their urban borders by Rural Municipalities. White City's situation is precedent setting for other Urban Municipalities in Saskatchewan to protect the ability to grow in the way towns need and want to grow and not how Rural Municipalities decide Urban Municipalities may grow.

During this long process White City has repeatedly invited the RM of Edenwold to discuss our proposal and come to a mutual solution. However, following mediation with the RM in 2019, it became clear that White City and the RM of Edenwold have two different visions for the future of this community. As seen by the RM of Edenwold's 2019 OCP, their vision is that of contention and domination which leaves no room for White City to grow and does not fall in-line with the growth plan laid out by the Government of Saskatchewan.

White City proceeded with an application to the SMB in November 2019 and submitted additional information per the SMB's request in May 2020. In November 2021 a jurisdictional hearing was held, and in December 2021 the SMB issued a decision in favour of White City in which it was decided that the SMB did have the authority to hear our case. We now await a date for a hearing on the merits of our application.

White City Council or Administration would be happy to share more information with you. Please reach out to us if you would like a presentation or to have a White City representative provide a presentation and answer any questions from your Council. We also encourage you to visit www.one-community.ca to access our proposal, growth study, financial analysis and more information.

SUMA has provided a draft letter template that Saskatchewan's hometowns may reference. We would ask you to consider sending an individualized letter from your municipality, and copying SUMA and the SMB, sharing your support on this important matter to show that White City does not stand alone in this issue.

Sincerely,
White City Town Council

Mayor Brian Fergusson

Deputy Mayor Rebecca Otitoju

Councillor Kris Moen

Councillor Bill Krzysik

Councillor Scott Moskal

Councillor Hal Zorn

Councillor Andrew Boschman