



Backgrounder for the City of Saskatoon Council (Updated Jan. 30, 2022)

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.
- To date, **our resolution has been passed by 28 municipal councils in nine provinces representing more than 12 million residents.** Municipalities [include](#) Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Charlottetown, Halifax, Saint John and St. John's.
- We have support from every province and territory in Canada: To date, 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 instruct staff to 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; Pablo Rodriguez, 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