

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Ruth Engele - Considerations and Options for Supporting Low-Income Households - CK 1720-0
Attachments: ROSA Submission Committee Utility protections Nov 6 2022.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2022 8:58 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Communication - Ruth Engele - Considerations and Options for Supporting Low-Income Households - CK 1720-0

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

Submitted on Sunday, November 6, 2022 - 20:56

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date: Sunday, November 06, 2022

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Ruth

Last Name: Engele

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Wellington St

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Renters of Saskatoon and Area (ROSA)

Subject: 7.3.1 Considerations and Options for Supporting Low-Income Households [CK 1720-0]

Meeting (if known): STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, UTILITIES AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Comments:
7.3.1 ROSA Submission on Supporting Low Income Households.

Attachments:

- [ROSA Submission Committee Utility protections Nov 6 2022.pdf](#)521.83 KB

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



Renters of Saskatoon and Area (ROSA)

Submission to Saskatoon Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, Nov 5, 2022

Renters of Saskatoon and Area (ROSA) are grateful that his Worship the Mayor, Council and the City Administration team are working towards a sustainable community for lower income renters' security of tenure and safety, with a vital targeted affordable utility program.

The recommended transitional phase of Option 4, with ongoing implementation of Option 5 as soon as possible, would be the most desirable outcome for the low income renters in need, including in multi-unit buildings. Adding the modified sliding scale proposed in Option 3 would also be preferred.

Some Eligibility considerations:

Disability poverty: Saskatoon independent living households, isolated with long-term disability poverty or by parenting or care giving for members with disabilities (mainly SIS and SAID tenants), are in need of great proactive vital utility affordability protection.

They tend to have reduced disability resources, often higher protected disability utility usage for health accommodations, and higher risks including loss of safety and dignity, from landlord and community conservation attempts. Particularly critical is the tendency to have fewer abilities to earn or find effective protections, as seen in both the pandemic and the large numbers fatalities and survivors of Vancouver's extreme heat disaster that were affected by disability poverty, while renting alone under the age of 65.

Federal tax definitions and measures of disability do not reflect Saskatoon's unmeasured disability poverty population, or higher disability cost of living.

The SIS program disability housing needs are a significant utility equity concern. SIS caregivers or parents of household members experience less utility funding and



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higher disability utility, sanitation and dignity needs from 3 months to 103 years, with fewer suitable affordable housing or income options in Saskatoon.

Utility account:

Further consideration is requested, on an equity transition gap for single tenant households, if requiring the utility account be in the tenant's name. This leaves a growing number of vulnerable tenants behind, often relying on income assistance in great housing insecurity and rising utility costs, while under the age of 65:

- with children, or as a single lone household,
- when all utilities are included in the rent, or
- when utility bills are divided up separately (often room-mating as a deep poverty refugee).

Recent national research found such single-led households experience the deepest poverty in Saskatchewan, while already over-represented in Saskatoon homelessness counts.

Concern remains for increased access to utility transparency for single roommates in shared accommodations at that address, and for all Renter households with utilities included within the rent at their legal address.

Longevity:

An ongoing targeted affordable utility program would be preferable for renters, than a short-term affordable utility program for those with sudden changed circumstance, which could perhaps be addressed more fairly in other ways.

Community support services:

Marginalized vulnerable and isolated tenants in the pandemic were not safe, or able to access exclusive community organizations' communications let alone support services, in a community that relied on charitable community organizations with unsupported turnover and gaps in critical expertise, or experiencing conflicting priorities.



Renters of Saskatoon and Area (ROSA)

Dedicated, accountable and coordinated expertise is needed to equitably include and support vulnerable and marginalized renters' diverse utility rights, long-term.

The Renter poverty human rights are complex to protect our marginalized vulnerable diversity, so we encourage the city to value, and invest meaningfully to protect and include diverse renter needs.

Saskatoon's future depends on equitably valuing renter citizens.

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