

February 2, 2023

2023-16

Your Worship Charlie Clark Mayor of Saskatoon 222 – 3rd Avenue North SASKATOON SK S7K 0J5 mayors.office@saskatoon.ca

Dear Mayor Clark:

Thank you for your January 11, 2023, letter regarding potential amendments to *The Cities Act* (the Act) related to ward boundary reviews.

The Act outlines the rules for creating wards and the requirement to maintain a uniform population in each ward where established. Keeping a relatively equal population in each ward ensures equal representation for voters. In turn, this fosters confidence and trust in the democratic system.

Government is always willing to listen to suggestions on how to improve the legislative framework. Thank you for sharing these suggested improvements – specifically, that the allowable variance for ward populations be increased to reduce the frequency of changes to ward boundaries and maintain continuity with voters, and that consideration be given to setting the variance in regulations under the Act.

The proposals will be considered for the next time the Act is amended.

Your Worship Charlie Clark Page 2 February 2, 2023

Thank you again for sharing these suggested improvements to the Act. If city staff have any further questions or would like to discuss the proposal, please contact Alan Williams, Senior Policy Advisor at 306-787-5106.

Sincerely,

Don McMorris

D_MMM

Minister of Government Relations

Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Minister Responsible for Provincial Capital Commission

cc: Adam Tittemore, City Clerk, City of Saskatoon

Cindy Yelland, City Solicitor, City of Saskatoon

Mike Jordan, Chief Public Policy and Government Relations Officer,

City of Saskatoon

Michelle Beveridge, Chief of Staff, Mayor Charlie Clark

Alan Williams, Policy and Program Services, Ministry of Government Relations