
Subject: 6.1.1 - Request to Speak - Ashly Dyck - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26
Attachments: Statement to Saskatoon City Council March6_2023.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 6, 2023 1:35 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Ashly Dyck - Facility Change Room Safety - File CK 100-26

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

Submitted on Monday, March 6, 2023 - 01:33

Submitted by user [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

Date: Sunday, March 05, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Ashly

Last Name: Dyck

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Ashley Dick

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Saskatchewan Cres E, [REDACTED]

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7N [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Public Agenda Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development, and Community Services: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 9:30am

What agenda item do you wish to comment on?: 6.1.1. Facility Change Room Safety [CK 100-26]

Comments:

I support the current policies regarding the use of change rooms at city facilities. I support the rights of transgender people to use the change room that reflects their gender. This use should be free of harassment and provide everyone with the opportunity to use change rooms in safety.

Statistics Canada's 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces found that Transgender Canadians were more likely to have experienced violence since age 15, and also more likely to experience inappropriate behaviours in public, online and at work than cisgender Canadians. Specifically, Sexual minority Canadians (including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people) were more than twice as likely than heterosexual Canadians to report experiencing inappropriate behaviours in public (57% versus 22%), online (37% versus 15%) and at work (44% versus 22%) in the 12 months preceding the survey. Additionally, sexual minority Canadians are less likely than heterosexual Canadians to report these crimes to the police, are more likely to use drugs and alcohol to cope with their abuse and harassment (24% vs 10%), and to seriously contemplate suicide (40% vs 15%).

I just recently moved back to Saskatoon from Ohio, where a news item occurred that is relative to today's proceedings. [Trigger warning: transphobia and physical assault] In July of 2022, a 20 year old trans man named Noah Ruiz was assaulted by a group of strange men for using the women's restroom at a campground in Camden, OH. Ruiz was told by the camp ground's owner that he should use the women's restroom instead of the men's restroom, so he did, but a woman camper who saw him in the restroom was very upset by this. Ruiz recalled the incident, stating that she said, "No man should be in this bathroom. If you're a man, you need to use a man's bathroom." He explained to her that he was told to use this bathroom, but as he left the facility he was jumped by three large men who slammed him to the ground, choked him, used transphobic and homophobic slurs, and threatened to kill him.

Noah Ruiz was trying to "follow the rules" and keep the peace the way the complainants here today are suggesting, and he was assaulted anyway. The woman camper perceived Noah as a man because trans men are men, and they should be free and safe to move in whatever public spaces reflect their gender. I wonder, what method the complainants here today suggest we use to decide who uses which changeroom, if they wish to restrict the liberty of each individual to decide for themselves. Would they ask to see the genitals of each person before they enter the change room? Because THAT sounds like much more harmful and predatory behaviour to everyone – particularly the women and girls the complainants claim to be here representing today – than a person making their own decision about where to change their clothes.

I wonder why today, on International Women's Day, Mark Friesen and his co-complainants are not here speaking to the City about an actual problem facing Saskatoon's women and girls. For instance, a higher percentage of Indigenous women and girls go missing in Saskatchewan than in the rest of Canada, 38% compared to 20%, according to a 2010 study by the Native Women's Association of Canada. Of the women and girls who were murdered, 72% of murders occurred in an urban area, like Saskatoon. I'm sure that the families of these victims would appreciate some attention and support for their cases on International Women's Day, and the complainants clearly have the time. Another issue facing the City's women is sexual assault. A 2017 investigation by the Globe and Mail found that, in Canada, police dismiss 1 in every 5 sexual assault cases reported to them as "unfounded", meaning police don't believe the crime happened. While other prairie provinces like BC (11%) and Manitoba (14%) fall below this disturbing national average, Saskatchewan is on-par, at 19%. Surely the complainants could have used their time today to ask what is being done to improve the support offered to victims of sexual assault in Saskatoon, and to reduce the rate at which cases are dismissed by police as "unfounded". Not only are today's complainants using International Women's Day as an excuse to spread transphobia and victimize trans people, they are actively taking time away from important issues affecting women and girls in this city.

I'll conclude my statement by citing a 2021 study by UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, which found that in the United States, transgender people were 4 times more likely to be the victims of violent crime than their cis-gendered counterparts. The study's author Ilan H. Meyer, Distinguished Senior Scholar of Public Policy at UCLA, said "The results underscore the urgent need for effective policies and interventions that consider high rates of victimization experienced by transgender people." While the arguments against the liberty of trans Canadians presented here today do not constitute a violent crime, the complainants today are engaging in a persistent campaign to harass, intimidate, and victimize the trans people of this City. And we have seen in the case of Noah Ruiz that harassment against trans people can quickly turn violent. As government representatives, you must send a clear message today that this persistent, hateful, and small-minded bigotry will not stand. My hope today is that you will take the advice of

esteemed statisticians, policy analysts, and of transgender people themselves – who I remind you are more likely to be the victims of a crime than the perpetrators – and uphold the City’s current policies allowing transgender people to use the change room that reflects their gender, and ignore the false outrage and misinformation of those seeking to hide their bigotry and transphobia behind women and girls. Thank you.

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

Hello,

My name is Ashly Dyck. I am a cis-gendered white woman, and I support the current policies regarding the use of change rooms at city facilities. I support the rights of transgender people to use the change room that reflects their gender. This use should be free of harassment and provide everyone with the opportunity to use change rooms in safety.

Statistics Canada's 2018 Survey of Safety in Public and Private Spaces found that Transgender Canadians were more likely to have experienced violence since age 15, and also more likely to experience inappropriate behaviours in public, online and at work than cisgender Canadians. Specifically, Sexual minority Canadians (including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people) were more than twice as likely than heterosexual Canadians to report experiencing inappropriate behaviours in public (57% versus 22%), online (37% versus 15%) and at work (44% versus 22%) in the 12 months preceding the survey. Additionally, sexual minority Canadians are less likely than heterosexual Canadians to report these crimes to the police, are more likely to use drugs and alcohol to cope with their abuse and harassment (24% vs 10%), and to seriously contemplate suicide (40% vs 15%).

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Citations:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00009-eng.htm>

<https://www.advocate.com/news/2022/7/12/trans-man-brutally-assaulted-using-womens-restroom-campground>

<chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.nwac.ca/assets-knowledge-centre/2010-Fact-Sheet-Saskatchewan-MMAWG.pdf>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/investigations/compare-unfounded-sex-assault-rates-across-canada/article33855643/>

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/ncvs-trans-press-release/>