

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Nicole Burgess - Saskatoon Region Home Builders Association - Housing Accelerator Fund - File CK 750-4 x 1860-1
Attachments: Housing Accelerator Fund - SRHBA.pdf

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

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 1:15 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Nicole Burgess - Saskatoon Region Home Builders Association - Housing Accelerator Fund - File CK 750-4 x 1860-1

--- Replies to this email will go to ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com ---

Submitted on Monday, May 15, 2023 - 13:01

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Nicole

Last Name: Burgess

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com

Address: [REDACTED] Cope Cres

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatoon Region Home Builders' Association

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Governance & Priorities Committee Meeting - May 17

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 8.2.2 Housing Accelerator Fund [GPC2023-0503]

Comments:

Please find letter attached.

Attachments:

- [Housing Accelerator Fund - SRHBA.pdf](#)153.31 KB

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



May 15, 2023

Governance and Priorities Committee
City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Subject: Housing Accelerator Fund Application

Dear Members of the Governance and Priorities Committee:

On behalf of the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association (SRHBA), I am writing to express our support and appreciation for City administrations efforts in preparing for the application and approval of the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), offered by the federal government, and administered through CMHC. We also applaud administration's dedication to engaging in a comprehensive consultation process with various stakeholders to ensure the optimal application of these funds if successful.

As you know, the HAF presents a significant opportunity to expedite the development of new housing supply and foster transformative change within our city's control over land use planning and development approvals. This funding program also aligns with our shared vision of creating complete, low-carbon communities that are affordable, inclusive, and diverse. By securing funding through the HAF program, our city stands to make a substantial difference in addressing the pressing housing challenges we currently face. Increasing the supply of housing and positively impacting affordability are crucial goals that will contribute to the well-being and prosperity of our communities.

While we appreciate that each of the initiatives identified in the report has the potential to grow our housing supply to varying degrees, we look forward to learning more detail around the housing supply growth projections identified, and specifically how each initiative contributes to these overall numbers. We would also like to emphasize the importance of utilizing this funding to its full potential by prioritizing those projects that effectively support the development of sustainable and affordable housing options and aim to reduce costs associated with new housing construction. For example, the widening gap we are experiencing between new housing prices and the resale market has become a significant concern, negatively impacting the competitiveness and viability of local builders, and ultimately decreasing overall housing starts. By identifying and implementing cost-saving measures, we can help bridge this gap and create an environment where local builders can successfully deliver on the outcomes identified in the report.



In pursuing the HAF initiatives, we also stress the need for harmonization with other ongoing processes, that were unfortunately not selected for this application, such as the development levies review process and alignment of development charges with the cost of development. Coordinating these efforts will ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to housing development in our city, thereby maximizing the positive impact of these initiatives and ensuring one doesn't undermine the other.

We urge the Governance and Priorities Committee to endorse and support the City of Saskatoon's application for the Housing Accelerator Fund, but to also ensure that continued meaningful consultation with industry and key stakeholders, including the SRHBA, is included as an integral component of all initiatives identified. Engaging with local builders, developers, and stakeholders is crucial to ensure that the initiatives incentivize the key deliverable of increasing new market rate housing supply in Saskatoon. Additionally, we request that through these initiatives, you look to explore avenues for reducing costs associated with new housing construction, thus narrowing the gap with the resale market, and ultimately incentivizing more housing starts. Finally, we emphasize the need for harmonization of the HAF initiatives with other relevant processes, such as the development levies review process.

Thank you for your consideration. Together, we can make a lasting impact on housing affordability and make significant progress in meeting our city's growing demand for housing.

Sincerely,



Nicole Burgess, BA, CAE
Chief Executive Officer