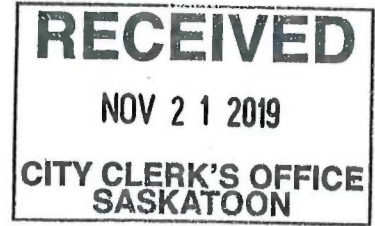


**From:** Kathy Evans <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 1:58 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Attachments:** new\_central\_library\_letter\_of\_support-final.docx



Submitted on Thursday, November 21, 2019 - 13:57

Submitted by anonymous user: 128.233.6.65

Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, November 21, 2019  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name Kathy  
Last Name Evans  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED] Hamilton Place  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)  
Subject Support for New Central library project  
Meeting (if known) Monday, November 25  
Comments  
I would like to speak to City Council on New Library as a former Saskatoon Public Library Board member/former President of Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association.  
Attachments  
[new\\_central\\_library\\_letter\\_of\\_support-final.docx](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/350035>

Saskatoon City Council

November 21, 2019

New Central Library Letter of Support



Libraries are extra ordinary places of enjoyment for the entire population from toddlers to seniors. As a former member of Saskatoon Public Library Board for 8 years (1996 to 2004) and President of Saskatchewan Library Trustees Association for 2 years (2003/2004) I am in full support of this new central library project and the city loaning the funds to make it happen. If we wait it will just cost more in the future!!

This NEW Central Library has been a HUGE need for well over 25 years! When I was on the board we had proposed building a new library and had receive the support of Saskatoon City Council with \$15 M federal funding (which was later re-directed to the new Remail art gallery). I am willing to pay an extra \$5 per year on my library levy to make this NEW central library be a reality!!!

In providing you with some background, SLTA was formed to raise a strong voice in support of libraries. This includes the annual lobbying of the provincial government for increased funding for libraries in Saskatchewan. Libraries continue to be VERY necessary in this day and age! A great example of SLTA's advocacy for libraries is in 2003 we were instrumental in receiving \$4.4 M to fund "Community Net" which provided high speed internet access for 162 libraries through the province. Resource sharing and co-operation are still the fundamental strengths of what is called Saskatchewan's "one province" library system – a system that is the envy of the country!

In 2003, SLTA commissioned author Don Kerr to write the history of Saskatchewan libraries. He wrote he "A book in every hand: public libraries in Saskatchewan", sharing with us that in 1935 more than 80% of Saskatchewan was without library services (penny libraries were common place), and the province ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> of 59 in comparison to other provinces and American states in regard to the quality of library service. By 1975 Saskatchewan had the best library system in Canada! A couple of years ago (2017), public outcry to the proposed provincial government cuts to library services of \$4.8M with the "sit in reading books" on MLA's office lawns placed pressure and the cuts were reversed.

It would be interesting to know how many of you as city counsellors are current library card and which locations or services you use. Many of us do not realize that a high portion of users of the Central Library in Saskatoon are those that are marginalized. Many of us have fortunately never been in this position. We are able to afford to have a cell phone with data and be able to use the internet anywhere we choose, may own an ipad or laptop; can afford to purchase ebooks and have internet services in our homes and places of work.

These marginalized persons I am speaking of may be teenagers, newcomers to Saskatoon/Canada or low income individuals and most often ride the bus to the city centre to attend appointments with service providers for their disabilities from mental health to physical health. They are also often frequent repeat users of the central library as our city transit hub is located in the downtown core. They may stop in at the central library to take out some books, videos or a borrow pass to get in free to the Remail art gallery, or spend some downtime between appointments to read the magazines, newspapers or use the washroom facilities.

We have sadly fallen behind the times for providing innovative and updated services to our customers. Many who use this service are unable to advocate for themselves or realize when services are being taken away from them! I am currently on the Board of Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan and have a family member on the Saskatchewan Assured Disability Program (SAID) program for disabilities. She is a prime example showing that without the library her entertainment life would be non-existent. Her recreational counsellor encourages her to use library services and attend free programming in the city. **(If you have never been in this position in community I challenge you to write up a list of "free" things you can do other than the library and the services and programs it provides.)**

You may recall a number of years ago the federal government starting pushing access to programs and service through the internet such applying for Unemployment Insurance, dealing with Revenue Canada and Veteran services to list a few. This created a higher demand on usage of internet services and computers for those in low income homes without access to computers or internet through the library which included help from staff to navigate the complicated processes. This new library will see us increase public computers from 28 to 135!

Literacy and access to services continues to be necessary for the current generations with the use in more recent years of cellphones and internet. Most of us can take for granted the use of free wifi in numerous areas in the city. However, for some the library is that safe space for them to take a break and use the wifi, take out books, videos, etc. without having to pay for a cup of coffee or meal.

Our new central library proposes installation of video gaming stations, more bookable rooms and a café! This provides a great social networking spot for many as we are losing Mulberry's as a coffee shop in the Sturdy Stone building shortly. This NEW central library will increase the availability of technology to everyone in the community with improved access to some of the many unique collections housed in the central library from music collections to history for tracing your ancestry! It is said a HEALTHY CITY has a HEALTHY DOWNTOWN library.

In closing, I would argue and ask you to consider how much funding was provided by the City in loans and grants to pay for the NEW Remail art gallery which happens to charge admission of \$12 per adult and how accessible it is to the general public versus the funding request for the NEW Central library and the clientele it will serve from all income ranges and especially those that are marginalized. The Saskatoon Public Library Board has been zealous and fiscally responsible from the time I was on the board to save funds annually to provide for future libraries and has saved to ensure they could build a new central library!

As far as I am concerned, this project is money well spent for the City of Saskatoon and well being of ALL of its residents.

Kathy Evans

■ Hamilton Place

Saskatoon, SK ■■■■■

■■■■■

650-1  
x 1700-1

**From:** Yann Martel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 2:01 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Thursday, November 21, 2019 - 14:01

Submitted by anonymous user: 71.17.232.47

Submitted values are:

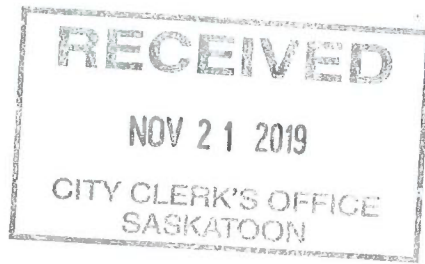
Date Thursday, November 21, 2019  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name Yann  
Last Name Martel  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED] Temperance Street  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)  
Subject New Central Library  
Meeting (if known) City Council budget deliberation meeting Nov. 25th to 27th  
Comments  
To Whom It May Concern,  
I would like to SPEAK to Council on Monday, November 25th AT THE START OF THE MEETING,  
PLEASE, so shortly after 1 pm. I will speak less than five minutes, promise.  
Thank you.  
Attachments

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/350036>

650-1  
x 1700-1

**From:** David Parkinson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2019 9:16 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council  
**Attachments:** new\_central\_library\_yes\_djp.pdf



Submitted on Thursday, November 21, 2019 - 21:16

Submitted by anonymous user: 70.64.118.91

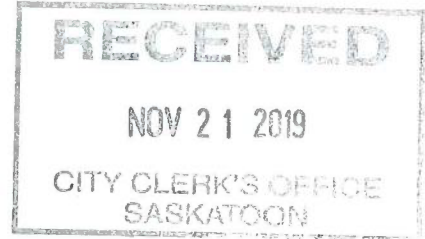
Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, November 21, 2019  
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
First Name David  
Last Name Parkinson  
Email [REDACTED]  
Address [REDACTED] 31st Street West  
City Saskatoon  
Province Saskatchewan  
Postal Code [REDACTED]  
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)  
Subject New Central Library Project  
Meeting (if known) Council  
Comments Requesting to speak to Council  
Attachments  
[new\\_central\\_library\\_yes\\_djp.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/350089>

650-1  
X 1700-1



21 November 2019

City Council  
City of Saskatoon

Dear Members of Council:

In your upcoming deliberations, please note my support for the New Central Library project. This excellent project merits the borrowing of \$87.5 million for its completion. The Central Library is an important investment because it is a place for all Saskatonians, longtime and newly arrived, to come together to share information, communication, and culture. This is the hub where they can gain timely knowledge about all aspects of their lives in this city and beyond. This is the most important location for everyone who wishes to improve their circumstances, to come and spend time without prejudice or impatience but with every commitment to their wellbeing and advancement.

It is crucial that the building in which these steps are taken should be one that expresses our shared commitment to our civic values. If our city can show itself to be ready for its next generation of growth, the New Central Library will serve as the strongest possible assurance that this growth is for all Saskatonians, and not just the most fortunate.

As a longtime resident of Saskatoon, I've helped raise a household of children to love the Frances Morrison Library. When I've met newcomers to the city, I've always encouraged them to visit this Library as soon as possible so they can learn about the range of resources available to them and to all other citizens of our city. The Writer in Residence program continues to inspire generations of up-and-coming novelists, poets, and playwrights; the Music Room displays the widest possible range of genres, so that a visit there can be a cultural trip around the world — and how rewarding it can be for new Saskatonians to realize that their home culture has a home here too.

I've watched and waited while the City prepared for this project. Now I'm encouraging you to take the next momentous step, one that will show where Saskatoon wants to be for its next half-century.

With good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Parkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Parkinson

31st Street West  
Saskatoon, SK  
[Redacted]