

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: SRA LETTER TO YXE RE HAF (2023.11.20).pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 4:01 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

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

Submitted on Monday, November 20, 2023 - 16:00

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, November 20, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Chris

Last Name: Guérette

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: Gur-ret

Phone Number : [3065517261](tel:3065517261)

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: 1705 McKercher Drive

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7H 5N6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Realtors Association

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 10.3.3 Housing Accelerator Fund [GPC2023-0503]

Comments:

Please see attached PDF.

Attachments:

- [SRA LETTER TO YXE RE HAF \(2023.11.20\).pdf](#) 218.07 KB

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



November 20, 2023

His Worship Charlie Clark
Mayor, City of Saskatoon

RE: Item 10.3.3, Housing Accelerator Fund [GPC2023-0503]

Dear Mayor Clark and Saskatoon City Council,

I write today on behalf of the Saskatchewan REALTORS® Association to express our support for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) proposal before Council on November 22, 2023. Our Association, comprised of over 1,650 members, is heavily invested in advancing sound policy solutions to promote affordability and increased access to housing in our province.

As you will know, our country continues to deal with an acute housing inventory crisis, compounded by ongoing inflationary pressures and a higher interest rate environment. Despite our relative affordability advantage and the fact that our market continues to fare better than many across the country, Saskatchewan - and Saskatoon - are not immune to these challenges.

Our province continues to grow at its fastest pace in over a century – as we work to attract investment and people to our city, we cannot lose sight of the fact that above all, these folks need a place to live. For the majority, if not all, of 2023, the City of Saskatoon has reported less than three months of housing supply, with inventory levels between 30 and 50 per cent below long-term, 10-year trends. Housing affordability is not a given - once it has been eroded, it can be incredibly difficult – even impossible – to correct course.

The proposal before you today is ambitious, and very likely even uncomfortable for many of you, we understand that. That's because housing has become political. Zoning, densification, and not-in-my-back-yard pressures impact you, our elected officials, greatly. When, in fact, we should make housing a core value of how we want to grow as a community – it secures our future, and we should be bullish about it. A crisis of this scale requires policy shifts, such as the proposal before you today, to transform how we improve the amount and variety of housing in our city.

While Canadian municipalities compete for a limited allocation of available funds, we strongly encourage you to consider what this motion, if passed, will do to improve the housing continuum in the City of Saskatoon and allow us to compete on a national scale.

The recently announced GST forgiveness on purpose-built rentals, the reinstatement of the PST Rebate on New Home Construction, and the new Secondary Suite Incentive are all examples of other levels of government supporting increased access to affordable housing in our province. Respectfully, it is past time that municipalities follow suit and support ambitious initiatives such as the HAF recommendations before you today.

In closing, we applaud Saskatoon City Council for bringing this motion forward and encourage all Councillors to support the motion. As I often say, and it bears repeating, we can no longer afford to say no to housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Guérette', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Chris Guérette
Chief Executive Officer

