

## Janzen, Heather

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Nicole Burgess - Development Review Program – Proposed Fee Changes for 2024 and 2025 - CK 4350-72 x 1700-1  
**Attachments:** Letter to Council on proposed Development Program Fee Increases.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:11 AM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@Saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@Saskatoon.ca)>

**Subject:** Email - Communication - Nicole Burgess - Development Review Program – Proposed Fee Changes for 2024 and 2025 - CK 4350-72 x 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com](mailto:ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com) ---

Submitted on Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 11:00

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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:** Thursday, November 16, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**First Name:** Nicole

**Last Name:** Burgess

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** 13063804120

**Phone Number :** [13063804120](tel:13063804120)

**Email:** [ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com](mailto:ceo@saskatoonhomebuilders.com)

**Address:** 17-102 Cope Cres.

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** S7T 0X2

**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)::** City Council Regular Meeting Nov 22

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Development Review Program – Proposed Fee Changes for 2024 and 2025 [PDCS2023-1101]

**Comments:**

attached

**Attachments:**

- [Letter to Council on proposed Development Program Fee Increases.pdf](#) 181.36 KB

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



November 16, 2023

His Worship the Mayor & Members of City Council  
City of Saskatoon  
222 – 3rd Ave N.  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

**RE: 8.3.2 Development Review Program – Proposed Fee Changes for 2024 and 2025 [PDCS2023-1101]**

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association (SRHBA) to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to fees for development permits and other development applications under the Development Review Program. We have always valued our successful collaborations with the City, and we are hopeful that on this important issue, we can once again find common ground. We believe that these increases, particularly the proposed 30% increase on rezoning applications in 2024, need careful consideration, as they have the potential to undermine the recent efforts and support provided by other levels of government to promote housing affordability and inventory.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the analysis provided by the City, the report presented lacks justification or rationale for the necessity of such a substantial increase at this time. We understand the city faces the same inflationary pressures as others, however, to increase fees by 30%, up to a staggering 438% in one case, will inevitably have a detrimental effect on development and investment in our City. We also are concerned on the lack of clarity around what constitutes a Major, Intermediate or Minor amendment. To not have clear, defined criteria on these categories will only result in additional uncertainty and risk, leaving it to dangerous discretionary decision making.

It is crucial, especially at this point, that we consider housing affordability as a key factor in decision-making. The home building industry continues to face significant upward pressure from various sources, including interest rates, inflation, and government charges and fees. Although these may seem minor individually, the cumulative effect of rising costs endangers Saskatoon's position as one of the most affordable housing markets in Canada.

The assumption that fee increases are necessary to maintain service levels must also be questioned. We suggest that the City bears the responsibility of demonstrating the value gained from internal efficiencies. Such a demonstration would build trust and garnered support for substantial fee increases, especially during these challenging times.



We kindly ask the City to consider a smaller, gradual fee increase, paired with demonstrated internal efficiencies and improvements. The question should not solely be about achieving cost recovery but should also emphasize finding ways to deliver the same service for less or enhancing the effectiveness of existing resources. This is a standard our professional members uphold daily, and we believe it can be achieved.

We are willing to collaborate with the City to become a national leader in development processing times and fees. This collaboration will help us compete effectively with larger centers, deliver services efficiently, and contribute to the city's growth in a smart and streamlined manner.

We are optimistic about our shared goals and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "NBurgess".

Nicole Burgess, BA, CAE  
Chief Executive Officer