

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Mark Bigland-Pritchard - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1
Attachments: budgetconcernsCoS'MBP.pdf

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

Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2023 5:34 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Mark Bigland-Pritchard - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1

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

Submitted on Saturday, August 12, 2023 - 17:34

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: Saturday, August 12, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Mark

Last Name: Bigland-Pritchard

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] 5th St E

Neighbourhood: [Haultain](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): n/a

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: special budget meeting

Comments:

Re: urgent need to protect the Low Emissions Community Plan from cuts and delays

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

Mark Bigland-Pritchard MA MSc PhD
████ 5th St E, Saskatoon, █████

2023:Aug:12

Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon SK, S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and councillors

I'm writing to you to express my concern over the possible cuts and delays being considered for the upcoming multi-year budget, specifically as regards the city's climate plan.

As some of you know, I have some expertise in this area. My academic qualifications are in energy studies and architectural physics, I taught energy studies to both BSc and MA/MSc students in Britain, I recently took an intensive one-week course in energy planning at the University of Aalborg, and I make an effort to stay up-to-date with peer reviewed literature both in energy technology and in the science-engineering-policy interface of climate studies. I also, in my current work as migration and resettlement coordinator with MCC Saskatchewan, make a point of trying to understand the situations from which refugees have come: the contribution of climate change impacts to displacement is – though complex - becoming ever more evident in many of the countries from which people have fled.

But my credentials are less important than the crisis which we face.

July 2023 was probably the hottest month that this planet has experienced in 100000 years. To anyone who has followed climate science, it should therefore be no surprise that we have seen disaster after disaster:

- Major floods, most of them deadly, in India, Pakistan and Nepal, in the maritime provinces and the eastern US, in China, in Japan, in Korea, in the Philippines
- The ocean by the Florida Keys reaching over 38°C
- War, coups and terrorist attacks escalating across over a dozen north and west African countries as people fight each other over land resources that have been diminished by one climate event after another, year after year after year. (And of course the situation in each country is complex and multi-faceted, but the impacts of climate change are an increasingly important element in the root causes of conflict in the most vulnerable multi-ethnic nations.)
- A warmer Antarctic ocean reducing [winter sea ice extent](#) and threatening more rapid melting of continental ice; the same effect is already well-established in the [Arctic Ocean](#) and [Greenland](#).
- [Deadly heatwaves](#) covering most of Europe, most of the middle east and north Africa

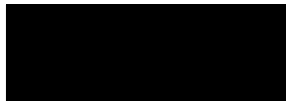
- [Deadly heatwaves](#) in the southern & western US and northern Mexico
- [Deadly heatwaves](#) over most of China
- Wildfires throughout Mediterranean Europe, in Kazakhstan, in the US and now in Hawaii.
- And here in Canada, record levels of forest fires – over 13000km² burnt already, and there are several weeks of fire season yet to go.
- And in Saskatchewan, drought, causing RMs to declare a state of emergency.

All this is happening when the world has only reached about 1.2°C of heating. With each fraction of a degree of heating, things get disproportionately worse: these small numbers represent massive and rapidly increasing life-threatening shifts. Current climate commitments made by politicians worldwide would take us to 2.7°C (and our provincial commitments are among the worst among our international peers). If that average temperature rise is our destination, it will be a world totally unlike the one that we live in today, and in ways too horrifying to imagine. And, while geography and wealth have so far enabled Saskatchewan to avoid the worst impacts, nowhere can escape forever.

There is only one way to avoid this: to take action to address this global emergency as if it is an emergency. That requires all hands on deck – including the city of Saskatoon.

I therefore urge you to protect all elements of the Low Emissions Community Plan from cuts and delays. (As someone who has been on the waiting list for the [in principle excellent] HELP scheme for several months, I am concerned that things are already moving too slowly.) **I look forward to hearing reports of councillors speaking out to protect and secure both our future as a city and the future of the worldwide communities to which we are inextricably connected.**

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Mark Bigland-Pritchard.

Mark Bigland-Pritchard
Ward 6 citizen