

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Caylin Lee - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1
Attachments: letter to city council.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 9:25 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Caylin Lee - 2024-2025 Budget Information Update August 2023 - CK 430-72 x 1700-1

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

Submitted on Monday, August 14, 2023 - 09:20

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, August 14, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Caylin

Last Name: Lee

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Bell Cres.

Neighbourhood: [Nutana Park](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

Comments:

Please see the attached letter discussing the importance of providing appropriate budget to continue acting on climate change.

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

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

My name is Caylin and I am a constituent of Ward 7.

I am writing today to stress the importance of following through on the city's climate action plan despite the current budget concerns. There is *no* good reason to delay acting.

Firstly, the city can not wait out the costs of climate change. As we experience more and more extreme weather it will inevitably place greater and greater financial burdens on the city. Earnestly participating in the global movement to reduce emissions to limit and slow the changing climate will have long term benefits. Responding to environmental catastrophes is expensive (as evidenced by our over-budget blizzard response) so taking serious action now to limit those catastrophes in the future is essential long-term planning.

But we also know that we are already acting too late to completely avoid climate change. Droughts, wildfires, storms, etc. are worsening and will continue to for some time even with the most aggressive climate change response plans. We have the choice to anticipate those changes and prepare for them now. If we fail to prepare for increasingly extreme weather, we will simply pay to respond to it in a crisis mode later when it inevitably occurs. Again, we can not wait out these costs by refusing to pay them.

Secondly, and more hopefully, the city's climate action plan is a vision for a better Saskatoon for the people who live here. I am especially excited by the plans to improve our transit system and the active transportation network. For people who currently drive regularly, the improvements to these systems would provide incredible freedom and choice about how to move around the city. And for people who do not drive these systems really are essential. They are how a person exercises their right to freely move through the city and live as a citizen of it. Both of these systems are woefully inadequate presently, and their improvement will be a massive benefit to people in Saskatoon.

Finally, and most importantly, we have a moral responsibility to reduce our carbon emissions. As I write this, the death toll continues climbing after Hawaiian wildfires destroyed an entire city. It is hardly the only recent case of extreme weather events taking people's lives and destroying their homes, and the science of climate change makes it clear it won't be the last. In Saskatoon we have not experienced anything as severe yet, but we must recognize the global scale of this crisis and our contribution to it. Refusing to reduce our emissions because we personally haven't had our homes destroyed by extreme weather events would be deeply selfish. Climate change does not care about borders and the emissions we produce here contribute to the suffering felt elsewhere. We cannot simply ignore that suffering. Our shared humanity compels us to take this seriously and act now. Limiting that action to what will directly benefit ourselves or abandoning it the moment it becomes inconvenient is unacceptable.

I hope that city council chooses to live up to that responsibility and treats climate change as the high priority topic that it deserves to be as you continue budget discussions.

Sincerely,

Caylin Lee,
Ward 7 Citizen