

To His Worship Mayor and City Councillors

I (we) am (are) in support of continued local production of plants and staff services provided by the Parks Division greenhouse program.

It is disheartening to hear of the possible closure of the Parks Divisions greenhouses as reported by Director Darren Crilly, Parks, and Troy LaFreniere, Director of Facilities, on February 8th. Further information, options and costing will be presented by Administration to Council in June. All possible options should be considered to enable this valuable service to continue.

Since 1910 greenhouse plant production has greatly contributed to civic pride, economics, and personal well-being, serving to showcase our beautiful city. Over several decades the staff have provided excellent service and high-quality plants. Plants selected for park flower beds, flower pots, the Civic Conservatory, City Hall, and Leisure Centres are well-suited for our environment and add value to the City.

Civic staff are best able to supply the tropicals, flowering displays, and selection of plant material to City Hall, Leisure Centers, and other civic buildings.

The city's greenhouse has compiled a selection of over 350 species of plants for these locations and for the future Conservatory. It would be nearly impossible for a contractor to supply such a diverse collection that was compiled over many decades.

Knowledge, expertise and training is provided to citizens, associations, Business Improvement Districts, and other municipalities. Best practices are shared regarding production and care of bedding plants, flower pots, perennials, native plants, and tropicals.

Local production aligns with civic green initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and environmental impact. The 2023 bedding plants will be delivered in 3 shipments from an Alberta supplier at the cost of \$73,000.00.

The greenhouse and Conservatory programs fit well into Saskatoon's environmental and green initiatives, as well as the diversity, equity and inclusion strategies. The health benefits of plants and green environments are well documented. Civic staff are better able to enrich the experience of visitors at the future Conservatory, and to showcase city parks, business cores, boulevards, and facilities.

I really am it say it better. In the long run, we, a group of Saskatooners will be at the mercy of a supply chain and won't be able to keep our city beautiful and sustainable. I do think this will be a cheaper alternative and fitting

in the whole plan of being a
greener city with future
generations we look up to
with pride.

Sincerely

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