

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments - Shawna Nelson - Dtnyx - Tax Policy
Date: Monday, April 21, 2025 12:08:44 PM
Attachments: [DTN YXE BID Letter re Commercial Property Tax Ratio_2025.pdf](#)

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

Submitted on Monday, April 21, 2025 - 12:05

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: Monday, April 21, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Shawna

Last Name: Nelson

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: 3rd Ave S

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

Comments:

Letter Submission in response to Commercial Property Tax Ratio on behalf of Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District

Attachments:

- [DTN YXE BID Letter re Commercial Property Tax Ratio_2025.pdf](#) 86.73 KB

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

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.saskatoon.ca/admin/structure/webform/manage/webform_398/submission/106704



Dear Mayor Block and Members of Saskatoon City Council,

I am writing to strongly urge the Council to reconsider a commercial-to-residential tax ratio of **1.88:1**. There are other, lower options presented to the Council that would better reflect a better balance for the businesses that are the backbone of our local economy.

I would like to address Councilor Jeffries' remark during the March 26 Council Meeting, where he stated that he has not received any concerns from Saskatoon businesses regarding the 1.88:1 ratio. Representing over 1,000 businesses in Downtown Saskatoon, I must emphasize that this issue is a significant concern for us.

The current environment is extremely challenging for local businesses. We are contending with:

- **US tariffs** that affect our export capacity and raise the costs of goods
- **Inflation** that has driven up the cost of everything from raw materials to wages
- **Tight and shrinking profit margins** as we try to stay competitive
- **Ongoing pandemic recovery**, which continues to impact staffing, supply chains, and demand
- **Rising crime**, including theft and vandalism, that adds to our operating costs
- **A shrinking labour pool**, with both skilled and unskilled workers in short supply
- And **limited connectivity and business opportunity** compared to larger Western Canadian cities with better infrastructure and amenities

We don't have the same advantages as Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, or Vancouver in terms of market access, population size, international airport traffic, or amenities that attract and retain talent. What we *can* offer is a tax environment that signals to businesses that we are welcome here, that Saskatoon *wants us to succeed*.

I urge you to reconsider the 1.88:1 tax ratio and listen to the many business voices across this city who are speaking up—right now—with real concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Shawna Nelson'.

Shawna Nelson
Executive Director
Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District