

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Comments - Meaghan Risling - Research Junction Program Update 2025
Attachments: Letter of Support for the Research Junction Development Grant.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 9:01 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Comments - Meaghan Risling - Research Junction Program Update 2025

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

Submitted on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 - 08:56

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.: Yes

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Meaghan

Last Name: Risling

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Gymnasium Pl

Ward: Ward 1

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): University of Saskatchewan

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Governance and Priorities Committee - June 11

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Research Junction Program Update 2025

Comments:

Please accept this letter of support from the University of Saskatchewan for the continued funding of the Research Junction program.

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



May 26, 2025

Governance and Priorities Committee
City of Saskatoon

Re: Letter of Support for the Research Junction Development Grant

Dear Committee Members,

The University of Saskatchewan enthusiastically supports the continued funding of the Research Junction Development Grant, a partnership between the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan (USask). Research Junction funds early research collaborations that are co-designed and co-led by City of Saskatoon staff and USask researchers, building the foundation for strong partnerships and long-term, collaborative research programs.

Research Junction is a major initiative under the MOU signed between USask and the City of Saskatoon and has consistently generated new research partnerships and projects for the benefit of Saskatoon residents. In addition to the Development Grant, Research Junction supports collaboration through partnership facilitation services, a Data Licensing agreement, and a Master Research agreement. In addition, the program reinvigorated research connections at the Research Junction Workshop in October 2024, which brought together 109 attendees from both organizations to discover new areas of research to explore. Research Junction funded 6 Seed Grant projects in December 2024 to accelerate moving the conversations and ideas generated at the workshop into projects and partnerships.

Research Junction has successfully launched 23 Development Grant research projects and 6 Seed Grant projects since 2019. These grants support a broad range of research projects that are improving the quality of life for Saskatoon residents and supporting operations and policy at the City of Saskatoon. Some recently funded projects are looking at improving supply chains to shorten water main break repairs, reviewing policies to fight housing insecurity and homelessness, and exploring sustainable transportation strategies.

With 15 projects completed to date, Research Junction has already made an impact, with highlights including:

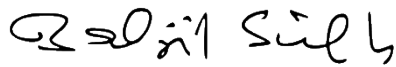
- 46 students receiving training and valuable experience working on City-focused research projects;
- Receiving over \$2 million in external research funding to support City-USask research projects and partnerships that were initially facilitated through Research Junction;
- Publications and reports from these projects have informed Saskatoon's Place Identity Framework, Community Energy Loan Program, and the City Centre and District Plan, among others.

USask is committed to the success of this program and will fund this program annually at \$50,000/year (matched to City of Saskatoon funding). USask will continue to provide in-kind resources of staff, including a coordinator for the program, communications and grant administration support.

Research Junction embodies the intent of the MOU between USask and the City of Saskatoon. It puts ideas into action, delivers outstanding value to residents, and is grounded in collaboration and innovation. USask is excited to continue to support and fund Research Junction and looks forward to continuing this partnership with the City of Saskatoon.



Peter Stoicheff, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor
University of Saskatchewan



Baljit Singh, FCAHS, BVSc&AH, MVSc, PhD
Vice-President, Research
University of Saskatchewan