

1600-24

**From:** City Council  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 09, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



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Submitted by anonymous user: 207.47.161.163  
Submitted values are:

Date: Wednesday, August 09, 2017  
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council  
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Comments:  
July 27, 2017

Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
City of Saskatoon  
222 3rd Ave North, Saskatoon, SK

Re: Feedback on the PWC Saskatoon Land Internal Audit Report

Dear Councillor Iwanchuk,

On behalf of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce's members and board of directors, we offer our appreciation for the opportunity to review the Internal Audit Report and provide feedback for council to consider.

Firstly, we applaud and support the initial steps to undertake an audit of the land bank and feel this is a positive step in the right direction. Our Chamber proposed the following points for consideration and as recommendations that should be initiated going forward:

1. To undertake a feasibility study around the establishment of the Land Branch as a Land Development Corporation that is an entity responsible to an independent board for review, such as the examples from Calgary and Surrey in the auditor's report.
2. To establish a governance structure that strives to create continued transparency in and around processes/policies and includes key community stakeholders within its governing body.

3. Increase transparency around financial management and allocations of the Land Bank, the risks to the tax payer in a soft market, and the department making discretionary decisions based on individual situations.
4. Provide quarterly progress reports to key stakeholder groups that outline the implementation of goals and outcomes.

Our Chamber's primary concern is not with the existence of the Land Branch, but rather specifically areas of improving financial transparency and the making of sound business decisions outside of political influence. Our goal is to keep commercial land prices competitive as to incentivize business to locate and operate in Saskatoon, rather than relocate to other jurisdictions.

On behalf of our members in the Saskatoon business community, we thank you for this opportunity and look forward to more discussion on this topic in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require clarification.

Best Regards,

Darla Lindbjerg, CEO  
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce

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The results of this submission may be viewed at:  
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/188848>