

7830-1

**From:** Cheryl Loadman <ed.saskatoonservices4seniors@sasktel.net>  
**Sent:** October 23, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** Web E-mail - City Clerks  
**Subject:** Letter to city council  
**Attachments:** LT - Mayor and Council Garbage Pick Up.pdf



**RE: Special Needs Garbage Collection Service (File No. CK. 7830-1)**

Attached is a letter regarding the aforementioned topic, to be discussed at today's council meeting.

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Mayor and Council  
City of Saskatoon  
205 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Saskatoon Sask  
S7K 5J5

Dear Mayor and Council;

**Re: Special Needs Garbage Collection Service (File No. CK. 7830-1)**

Thank you for the opportunity to address City Council on **Special Needs Garbage Collection Service (File No. CK. 7830-1)**. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the City Council meeting on October 23, 2017 to raise this matter directly. The comments contained in this letter highlight the ongoing thoughts and views of Saskatoon Services for Seniors.

By way of introduction to our interest in this matter, Saskatoon Services for Seniors (SSFS) is a registered charity, non-profit social enterprise whose mission is to provide home-based services to seniors, persons with failing health and physically challenged/disabled individuals, that maximizes safety and independent living for as long as possible. A primary SSFS service focus is on Saskatoon's lower and low-income individuals in hopes of alleviating the impact of pension challenges and poverty on them.

SSFS's reach is also wider and deeper, as our agency's second mandate is to support employment of underemployed individuals including women coming out of corrections and new Canadians -- we marry service demand with those needing work. As a social enterprise we are not a typical not for profit in that we are striving to become sustainable without government funding.

SSFS attended and spoke at the October 10, 2017 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services. We support the outcome of that meeting embodied in the Committee recommendation and we look forward to the resulting future engagement in discussions on **Special Needs Garbage Collection Service** through the Waste Utility consultation process. For Council's information, SSFS highlighted to the Committee two issues of utmost importance to our organization:

1. SSFS is requesting the continuation of the existing special needs garbage collection service AND we request the removal of existing restrictions limiting the number of Saskatoon citizens who can receive special help/supports for rolling out garbage bins. Saskatoon citizens who are elderly, disabled or physically unable must have access to publicly provided, tax payer funded waste removal services regardless of their ability to manage the roll-out garbage bins.

.../2

Tearing down barriers to inclusion for seniors and disabled is essential in creating an age and disability friendly community. SSFS believes that waste removal services are one of the fundamentals of remaining successfully independent in our community. Simply, waste removal service is an integral component of independence and dignity.

There are solutions to concerns of program abuse and eligibility of citizens. Bi-annual medical certification that the household is deemed unable to carry their garbage/recyclables to the curb, along with a declaration signed indicating that there is no able-bodied persons living in the property, are simple methods to qualify individuals for this service.

A review of the policies and practices of cities across Canada indicates that the majority provide a waste collection service that mirror the aforementioned suggestion both in access to the program and means to test eligibility.

2. SSFS is also requesting an opportunity to meet with the Public Works Department to explore alternative service delivery arrangements. Alternative waste removal service delivery is a means of:
  - addressing the cost challenges attached to City delivery of continuing and expanding **Special Needs Garbage Collection Service**
  - providing employment opportunities to underemployed populations

SSFS suggests that consultations with the City's public sector union may alleviate union job loss concerns.

SSFS notes that the November 30, 2015 consultations on the issue of **Special Needs Garbage Collection Service** did not fully consider the provision of services by organizations such as SSFS or other social enterprises in Saskatoon. Circumstances in the social enterprise environment have also changed rapidly since the 2015 report, with the emergence of procurement or service provision possibilities through one or a partnership of a number of local social enterprise organizations.

SSFS, with an average of 14 employees and \$200+K in revenue from client services, is in a position to respond to such procurement opportunities. We are also open to partnerships with other social enterprises in an effort to create a success based outcome for our clients (the groups most impacted) and underemployed individuals. Exploratory conversations with the Public Works division will enable a better understanding of the potential for this business opportunity.

A review of the policies and practices of cities across Canada indicates that a small number of waste collection services are delivered by alternative community providers.

SSFS respectfully thanks City Council for the opportunity to present our position. We also look forward to our involvement in further discussions and Council's consideration of a positive resolution to **Special Needs Garbage Collection Service** that addresses the points raised by SSFS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized capital 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cheryl Loadman  
Executive Director