

From: City Council
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To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



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Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
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Comments:

We welcome the chance to speak at the Standing Committee of Transportation on May 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The Canadian National Institute of the Blind is a 100-year-old organization that offers vision loss rehabilitation and quality of life programs for people who are blind or partially sighted.

We understand that you are the contact for legislation for ride sharing services, and we are very supportive of ride sharing services such as Uber and Lift to enter into the province. These services will allow greater access to transportation for many of our clients at a reduced cost.

Transportation options such as ride share will increase the independence of people who are blind or partially sighted by giving them more options for transportation at a lower cost. Sixty-eight percent of individuals who are blind and partially sighted are unemployed and for those who are employed, they are living on incomes of less than \$20,000 per year. Ride share offers a more affordable option. We hope that accessibility issues can be included in the legislation.

While we are in support of ride sharing services, we also want to make sure that accessibility can be included in the legislation. Many times, people who use a Guide Dog are left stranded because they are refused service. CNIB has been working with Uber in Toronto to develop a non-discrimination policy. This policy helps to stop people from being denied a ride from companies like Uber, with this policy if they do deny someone because they use a guide dog, their rights to use the app and be a driver are revoked.

This is something that we would like to see in the licencing requirements for these new companies coming in, so they are accountable to adhere to the current Saskatchewan Human Rights Act. If we are proactive this sets a precedent for Saskatchewan to be the best province for people with disabilities.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet at a mutually agreed upon time to discuss how we can work together to make ride sharing services as accessible as possible. Please contact our office at 306-525-2571 to coordinate.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/225550>