



September 11, 2019

Saskatoon Public Library
Attn: City Council
311 23rd St E
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J6

Dear His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council:

I am writing in support of funding for a new central building for the Saskatoon Public Library. Libraries change lives, and central library branches revitalize downtown cores, build communities, and support citizens. Additionally, robust and vital central libraries are a significant visual representation of a city's commitment to the learning, development, and enrichment of its residents.

Modern libraries are much more than repositories for books. In this age of rampant misinformation, libraries ensure that their clients have both 1) access to accurate information and 2) the professional support necessary to make sure they are able to access that information. They promote reading, host cultural events, create exhibits on topics of local and global interest, support entrepreneurship, and help immigrants acculturate. Central libraries also serve as a cornerstone of a city's infrastructure, operating as a key social, cultural, and educational institution. Through their role as a welcoming and accessible public commons, libraries bring people together to form and strengthen communities.

The Saskatoon Public Library's central library plan creates a space that blends traditional library services with enhanced programming to support Saskatoon's diverse citizens. Students, newcomers, local historians, the low literate, innovators, those without reliable internet access, readers, non-readers, local businesses – in short, all Saskatoonians – will benefit from a revitalized library that is built to address our community's unique needs.

Speaking as the Dean of the University Library, the city library supports primary and secondary schools students who are potential future University of Saskatchewan students. A strong central library will help prepare students for university by supporting literacy, information literacy, digital fluency, and a culture of inquiry. The potential for partnership with the University to bring our researcher expertise to the broader community through shared programming in SPL central library spaces is enormous. Speaking as a resident of Saskatoon and a proud, and active, SPL card-holder, a new central library that serves as a beacon of learning and civic engagement would be a welcome addition to our growing city. My family, and families across our city, would know that Saskatoon prioritizes the intellectual and cultural enrichment, and civic engagement, of all its residents.

I am excited by the potential addition of a new central library to our downtown, and am pleased to provide my unequivocal support.

Sincerely,

Melissa L. Just, MLIS, EdD
Dean, University Library

September 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division would like to offer this letter of support on behalf of the Saskatoon Public Library for their request for funding for a new central library to be located in downtown Saskatoon. We appreciated and valued the opportunity to participate in a consult in 2018 to identify what a possible new vision might look like for the Saskatoon Public Library and how it could enhance services for the community.

Our school division values our partnership with the City of Saskatoon libraries and are excited that there is revisioning on how they can possibly expand and improve services that are currently be offered to the community of Saskatoon. We believe that students and families would benefit from a new central library with increased access to programs, access to new and innovative technology and flexible learning space to collaborate.

We look forward to this exciting project and the many positive social impacts for the community of Saskatoon. Through this new central library, we will continue to work collaborative to meet the diverse needs of the City of Saskatoon with a continued focus on improving literacy for all members of our community.

Sincerely,



Tammy Shircliff
Superintendent of Education



Sep 13, 2019

Saskatoon Public Library

RE: Letter of Support for Saskatoon Public Library

Attention: City Council

The YMCA is a longstanding and proud part of the Saskatoon community, and exemplifies a model of community support that promotes the mental, physical, and social wellbeing of those we serve. We are pleased to hear that the Library is working towards a new central Library that will undoubtedly serve the needs of many in our community. I firmly believe that the Library is a vital and unique part of a vibrant community. The needs that they are able to meet for community members will help our City ensure that we continue moving towards a revitalized downtown.

In the last several years there have been many positive examples of investment in Libraries and Library services throughout Canada. The goals of building a flexible space, a welcoming community hub and a place for learning and innovation align and complement our own Strategic goals.

I understand that one of the next steps in this process would be working with stakeholders to ensure that a variety of perspectives and community needs are identified. We would be very pleased to be involved in this process as we are also firm believers in the power of partnerships, combined effort, and having more impact together. In our most recent conversations with the Library staff we were very pleased to identify many possibilities to work together on program level opportunities and I see this as a very positive step. I look forward to seeing what these opportunities will lead to in the future.

The YMCA of Saskatoon is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Saskatoon Public Library and the work they do in the Saskatoon community.

DDodge

Dean Dodge
Chief Executive Officer

YMCA of Saskatoon

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Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

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www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca
Barry MacDougall, Director of Education

September 5, 2019

Ms. Carol Cooley
Director of Libraries & CEO
Saskatoon Public Library
Email: r.landriault@saskatoonlibrary.ca

Attention: City Council

Dear Saskatoon City Council,

Saskatoon Public Schools supports the development of a new central library, to be located in downtown Saskatoon. We endorse the proposed business case for a new central library because it will be of great benefit to students and teachers in our division.

The library's renewed focus on learning and innovation will provide more active, relevant learning support for students. As teachers work to fulfil commitments to students and achieve strategic student goals, a new central library will position Saskatoon Public Library as a key partner in learning in a more wide-reaching and responsive way.

The adaptive infrastructure and learning programs envisioned in the plan for the new library will enhance the support provided for increased literacy rates in young people and families. Saskatoon Public Library has worked in partnership with Saskatoon Public Schools for many years in our common goal of growing child and family literacy. If actualized, the plan for a new central library, with new literacy programming to address 21st century learning needs, will strengthen the effectiveness of the service that both of our organizations provide to students and families.

Students and staff of Saskatoon Public Schools look forward to the creation of a new downtown central library and all the advantages it will bring to the community. We anticipate many benefits and enthusiastically support the plan as a way to strengthen our partnership with the Saskatoon Public Library in the service of student learning.

Sincerely,

Barry MacDougall, Director of Education, Saskatoon Public Schools

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**Saskatoon
Open Door
Society**

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P: 306-653-4464 F: 306-653-7159

September 3, 2019

City Councillors
222 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Saskatoon City Councillors;

On behalf of the Saskatoon Open Door Society (SODS), I would like to express my unreserved support for the Saskatoon Public Library's (SPL) new central library project proposal. I believe a new central library is sorely needed within our community and would provide myriad economic and social benefits for our vibrant and growing city.

At SODS, we see firsthand the impact SPL has on our community, particularly in relation to newcomers. Public libraries are invaluable resources for new Canadians and often one of the first places they visit upon arriving in their new community. SPL, in particular, offers free and equal access to critical programs and services such as story times, job search help, resume writing workshops, and EAL seminars where newcomers can practice English and learn about life in Canada. In addition to the practical help these programs provide, they are tremendously beneficial in helping new Canadians establish a sense of belonging and community. By offering free access to public computers, Wi-Fi and other forms of technology that are tremendously important, SPL also helps bridge the digital divide for newcomers and many other community members with limited financial means.

Though the Frances Morrison Central Library has served our city well for more than 50 years, it is now outdated, non-compliant with nearly all significant building codes, and severely undersized in relation to our current population. A new facility would contribute to downtown rejuvenation efforts in a very meaningful way and significantly enhance the social welfare and quality of life for all Saskatonians. While this would be a significant financial investment for our city, I firmly believe it would provide invaluable returns.

Sincerely,

Ali Abukar
Chief Executive Officer



Welcoming. Connecting. Belonging.



September 13, 2019

His Worship Mayor Charlie Clark and City Councillors
City Hall
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and City Councillors,

Re: Support for New Downtown Central Library

Downtown Saskatoon is supportive of plans to build a new central library in our district. In cities around Canada and the world, there are many recent examples where central libraries have served as catalysts for urban development and renewal in addition to providing needed services to the community.

As stated in the *City Centre Plan (2013)*, in order to attract new residential and commercial uses to the City Centre, the amenities that each of these groups require must be increased. Certainly, a renewed central library will play a key role in fostering growth in the City Centre.

We look forward to reviewing the complete business and financial plan for the proposal. In principle, we believe that a new central library located in Downtown Saskatoon will quickly become a prized community asset and assist in other civic goals such as expanding the residential population in the City Centre and attracting other private investment in the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brent Penner'.

Brent Penner
Executive Director

cc: Chris Beavis, Chair, Downtown Saskatoon Board of Management
Carol Cooley, CEO, Saskatoon Public Library